

# The Willows



## Primary School

Explore - Dream - Discover

Greatbatch Avenue, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7JU

Web: [www.willowsprimary.com](http://www.willowsprimary.com)

Email: [willows@sgfl.org.uk](mailto:willows@sgfl.org.uk)

Tel: (01782) 233280 Fax: (01782) 233282

Head Teacher: Mrs S Thursfield

Deputy Head: Mrs C Beltran

27<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Parents,

It has been a long time since I have written to you about homework and following some recent parental queries, I thought it would make sense to send information about how we approach homework to all of you.

As you are aware we send homework home for those pupils in Years Reception to Year 5 on an almost fortnightly basis. Those in Year 6 get weekly homework which is more formal than the rest of the school which helps prepare them for the end of Key Stage SATs tests and also help smooth their transition to high school.

We call our homework 'Brain Builder' Homework and this work is very open-ended in its nature. Therefore a family, or children as individuals, may choose to approach each task in varying levels of depth and complexity. For example, you may be asked to 'find important dates and changes within a particular period of history'. It may be that you choose to write a succinct bullet pointed list of a few important dates. Alternatively, you may enjoy extensive family research and a visit to the local libraries and museum whereby you engage in a mini-project!! Homework books will be issued to each child on a Wednesday and then they will return to school every alternative Monday (allowing 2 weekends to complete the work set). Each time, there will also be an option for 'free choice' homework. This is an option you may wish to choose if you have made a special visit somewhere and you want to record and share your findings. It may be that you are engaged in regular out-of-school activities that you want to share or you have a special hobby or interest you want to write about. The possibilities are endless!! We rotate the focus of the homework between English, Mathematics and topic work. On occasions, like the recent 100 Reads homework, we may send out special whole school homework tasks. Equally, homework may be set so that your child can show you their newly learned skills.

Our aim is to make home learning fun and it should stem from personal interests and levels of enthusiasm. We believe that 'traditional' style homework frequently serves to 'put children off learning' and often causes rows at home!!

Homework is marked by the teachers but not in the same depth as work in your child's English or Mathematics books (due to it often being a family matter). The children will be rewarded by being given smileys if they demonstrate a great attitude towards their learning.

In addition to Brain Builder homework, many year group teachers send their weekly spellings home for the children to learn or for those children in the younger aged classes they may have sounds or word cards to practice.

However, should you require a more formal style of work to support your child at home then please see your child's class teacher and they can arrange for this type of work to be sent home.



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Regular reading with your child and asking them questions based around the text they are reading is absolutely imperative. You should endeavour to hear your child read at least 5 times a week and as a consequence they will be rewarded for their efforts with our Reading Champions scheme. Remember to send in their reading diary which has been signed by an adult otherwise they will miss out on being a Reading Champion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Thursfield".

Mrs S Thursfield

Head Teacher



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