



# THE WHITSTABLE SCHOOL

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www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk | Headteacher: Mrs A M Gibson MA | @TheWhitSchool

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Dear Parents and Carers

## RE: KS3 Homework

We have been delighted to see so many pupils engaging with our homework system this term. There has been a significant improvement in numbers of pupils completing their work and taking advantage of our after-school homework clubs (taking place in the library until 4pm each evening). We are writing to you today to outline a few important points about our new approach to homework.

**We believe that homework should, whenever possible, be completed on the night it is set.** We have asked teachers to follow the timetable below so that as parents you know exactly what pupils should be doing each night. We know that sometimes there are commitments that mean homework can't be done on that day and so we have asked teachers to allow an extra 24 hours for those who need it.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday (for Monday)
<b>Key Stage 3</b>  <b>Y7, Y8, &amp; Y9</b>	English: Reading Record	Maths: MathsWatch  History: RP (quizizz)	MFL: Textivate	Maths: MathsWatch  Geography: RP (quizizz)	English: RP (quizizz)  MFL: Textivate
	Pupils should aim to complete their <a href="#">Tassomai</a> homework for English and science four times a week, including Mondays and Fridays for science and Wednesday for English				
Technology set a weekly quiz homework Additional Project based homeworks are set in Performing Arts and Creative Arts					

**Each homework task we set should last for around 20 minutes of focused concentration.** Children work hard at school and we believe that for their wellbeing they should not be spending hour after hour at home getting extra work done. As parents, you can support your child by encouraging them to avoid distractions (like phones, multiple open tabs and device notifications) and concentrate for the full 20 minutes on each task set. If a task is taking longer than 20 minutes, it is fine for them to mark this as done in Google Classroom and move on. There are two main tasks per night (a maximum of 40 minutes) and occasional additional short tasks. All homework is set using Google Classroom.

**Our homework is based on reading for pleasure and retrieval practice.** Reading for pleasure improves children's vocabulary and comprehension. As teachers we know that children who read regularly do better academically and we strongly encourage pupils in Year 7,8 and 9 to read every night. They will also have the opportunity to read in the English lessons.



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**Retrieval practice homework is a chance for pupils to practise remembering the key knowledge they are taught in class.** Studies show that practising recalling knowledge from memory is the best way to ensure recall over time. Retrieval is often linked to our Knowledge Booklets which you can [read here](#). Pupils should practise remembering the key material they are being quizzed on before completing the quiz by using the resources provided by their teachers. To find out more about the benefits of retrieval practice, [click here](#) to view this helpful infographic.

**Our homework is digital so that pupils can complete it easily on any device - phone, laptop or tablet.** We would encourage parents to provide children with a device to complete their work on or ask them to attend homework club after school in the Library till 4pm if this is an issue. Some families have told us that children focus best by completing their work sitting at a table straight after they get home from school. If your child works in their bedroom, please encourage them to focus and not attempt to 'multi-task'!

We have created this website to help you support your child with their homework and answer queries you might have: [TWS Online Learning Website](#)

The school's key platform is Google Classroom and your child can access their Google Classroom here: [classroom.google.com](https://classroom.google.com) or they can download the Google Classroom app onto mobile devices and tablets.

As a parent, you can sign up to receive Google Classroom email summaries which tell you what homework has been set each week. If you need this reset, or have any other technical issues please email [jennie.whittaker@swale.at](mailto:jennie.whittaker@swale.at)

Thank you for your support with homework. If you would like to share feedback or ideas with us, [please use this form](#).

Best wishes

**Mrs Whittaker**  
Digital lead and homework

**Mr Scales**  
Deputy Headteacher



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