

Seesaw

Easier ways to use Seesaw at home -
a parent's perspective

Our experience

We found Seesaw very difficult at first. Using it on a smartphone was fiddly and complicated, and we couldn't find a way to mark up the documents sent, or use it for our children to do their homework. We also didn't want our young children spending too much time on our smartphones, so we really struggled.

But over the last couple of years, we've started to appreciate it as **a communication tool between us and the classroom**. By using it more to understand what my kids have been working on and less as a programme for them to do the work, it's now easier for us all to get what we want out of homework.

I've put together a few tips that have helped us, along with some comments from a Windmill teacher - I hope it helps you get more out of Seesaw.

The Seesaw website also has some help and tips that you might find useful:

<https://seesaw.com/family-resources/>

What works for us?

Use it on a tablet or laptop computer. This makes it much easier to view and use the different tools like text boxes or highlighter

Get kids to use good old fashioned pen/pencil and paper to actually do the homework. You can either read out questions or spellings or quickly jot down maths problems, or use a tablet or computer screen for your children to look at but get them to do all the work on a piece of paper

Use the smartphone app only to post photos of homework. You can stay logged in on multiple devices, and I find it easiest to snap a photo on my phone then post it via the app.

What works for us? (cont.)

Always click 'Add response' rather than on the post itself. This takes you straight to an editable version where you can post photos of the homework, or use the tools to reply to the teacher

Keep it simple. There are lots of tools and tricks on Seesaw but probably only one or two that you actually need. I mainly use the text box for adding writing and the upload function to post a photo of the homework.

Know where things are. Instead of trying to track down crumpled pieces of homework in rucksacks or find information in piles of paper around the house, we can always find homework or messages from the teachers!

What do teachers say?

I asked Miss Ward from Year 1 for some thoughts from a teacher's perspective:

Flexibility and saving paper

Students can share their work in different ways—like videos, audio, drawings, or writing—which supports different learning styles. Teachers can create fun, interactive tasks instead of just using worksheets. And with each year having 90 children, it saves a huge waste of paper!

Keeping in touch with parents and carers

Parents and carers can track what the children are learning and adapt if needed. It shows what your child is currently working on, for example in maths or phonics, and where you can help. Teachers can respond and give feedback just like they do in class, and it is also an opportunity to share examples of different homework (in class) in order to boost confidence or give suggestions to others. It builds on and supports a partnership between school and home learning.

What do teachers say?

You don't have to use Seesaw every time

We'll often give suggestions as to how homework can be completed, and it doesn't have to be via Seesaw - hidden homework is always an option!

“Oh, I can't work out how many bananas I need this week! We eat 5 a day and there are 7 days. How many do I need to grab from Sainsbury's?”

“I need the flour - can you pass it to me? Which bag says F-L-O-U-R?”

Your teachers can help

Homework is not meant to be a scary experience for the children, and making home learning a chore or a battle is not our goal. If you are battling with your child to sit down and complete it or if you need any help or support then please come and speak to us! You won't be the first or the last parent to do this.