



CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Homework Consultation



Chesswood are following research led guidance in many areas of school life; we are proposing changes to homework to follow the research guidance available at the moment. The new proposals also take into consideration feedback received from our school pupil and parent consultation in October: making it easier to understand what homework needs to be done each week and considering the use of IXL.

The Education Endowment Fund (EEF) state:

- *It is certainly the case that schools whose pupils do homework tend to be more successful.*
- *There is some evidence that when homework is used as a short and focused intervention it can be effective in improving students' attainment... Overall, the general benefits are likely to be modest if homework is more routinely set.*
- *The quality of the task set appears to be more important than the quantity of work required from the pupil.*

At Chesswood Junior School we have decided to provide homework to set high expectations, promote independent learning and focus on the positive benefits:

1. We aim to be a successful school and, as such, setting homework and having high expectations can be part of that success.
2. We aim to target homework to the areas of priority to use it as intervention over the short to medium term. If this becomes routine homework, a modest benefit is better than no benefit, which would be achieved by not setting homework.
3. Our homework provision will focus on quality over quantity.

New proposals:

How the child receives homework

Homework set via Microsoft Office, using Teams assignments - delivered individually to each pupil. Each child will need to log into their school computer account to see their individual homework assignments in Microsoft Teams. All of the information and links that each child should need will be included in each assignment. Each child can respond to their teacher to show when they have completed the task or to ask questions. Children will be taught how to do this in class.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child develops independence and ownership over their homework – they know exactly what they need to do. • Parents only see the work that the child needs to complete. • Teachers can focus homework to suit the child's progression needs. • Teachers can use the homework to assess understanding of classroom learning. • Teachers can respond to child queries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher workload setting homework slightly increased. • Child may forget how to access homework (lessons/guides provided). • Parents need to know how to access their child's account to support with homework (guides provided). • Reliance on technology (hard copies can still be provided and options to use technology in school are available).

Homework cycle change

Homework will be set every Friday to be completed by Thursday of the following week. Celebrations of homework (TOP 10s) will be held in class every Friday with reminders/messages about the new homework being set.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of homework is more immediate – the following day (there is confusion over the current celebrations on Fridays, when the homework is completed by Tuesday). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A change from the current model that parents and children have got used to.



CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Homework Consultation



Individualised homework	
Homework will be different for each individual child within the same class but can more directly influence their learning. Teachers can explain more about their choices for your child during parent consultation meetings. See tables below for further explanation.	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research shows that focused homework can be beneficial to learning. This approach allows a focus on quality over quantity. Teachers and teaching assistants will be able to be directly involved in the choices for their children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A change from the current model that parents and children have got used to. Systems need to be in place for staff absence.

Little and often	
The suggested timings for homework have changed for a few areas to 5-10 minutes per day rather than 20/30 minutes blocks of learning.	
Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research shows that regular recall of information promotes stronger learning - improved memory and knowledge recall. Possibly beneficial to break learning into smaller chunks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibly more difficult for parents to motivate children to do homework throughout the week. Some parents and children will not have time to do homework on multiple days.

Individualised homework explained:

The following tables show the range of homework available, with the progression levels required to work towards age-related expectations or to work at greater depth. The suggested time box gives a guide as to how much time to spend on each task, while the links/support section provides you with ways to access key websites and guides to support your child.

Subject			
Progression	Task	Time	Links/Support
1	Developing fluency	X minutes per day or X hours per week (5 out of 7 days)	Links (some are not yet active but will be by September)
2	Age-related expectations		
3	Greater depth study		

Typically, each child will be assigned a task from each of the 5 essential areas alongside 2 additional choice tasks. In some cases, children will no longer need to complete homework in a specific area, for example, if they have shown mastery in the area, or if they need to concentrate on fewer tasks to be successful. As always, if the child is struggling with the challenge of the task, this should be reported to the teacher and other homework attempted instead. We do not wish to create stressful situations for children; we are attempting to develop independence and resilience to help them in the future.

Reading continues to dominate the homework tasks as this is such a core life skill that underpins all learning - Accelerated Reader will continue to be used to track word count and reading targets. Writing and maths tasks would link to class learning to help gauge the child's understanding – fluency tasks should be practised regularly to support memory recall. Knowledge tasks may be completed very quickly if known or may take a greater time if still being learned. Whilst the wider curriculum and safety & wellbeing are very important, we recognise that these should be optional in case children/families are finding the extent of homework challenging.



CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Homework Consultation



English - Reading

Progression		Task	Suggested Time	Links/Support
ESSENTIAL	1	Developing reading fluency Read with an adult or older sibling to become a more fluent reader	30 minutes per day or 2½ hours per week (minimum 5 out of 7 days)	‘A Parent’s Guide to Helping Children Read’ Accelerated Reader AR Book Finder Free reading resources CJS website links to teacher read books Genre wall
	2	Reading for pleasure Reach 100% of your reading target before end of each half term		
	3	Expand your reading range Read different books from the genre wall		

English – Writing (Spelling)

Progression		Task	Suggested Time	Links/Support
ESSENTIAL	1	Developing phonics Learn phonics letters and sounds with an adult	5-10 minutes per day until learned	Spelling resources Spelling gamification page
	2	Catch-up spellings Learn key spellings and words		
	3	Age-related spellings Learn the class spellings		

English – Writing (Grammar and Punctuation)

Progression		Task	Suggested Time	Links/Support
ESSENTIAL	1	Catch-up grammar & punctuation Learn the key knowledge and skills	Complete task to excellence level – master it if you can	Currently IXL Or New GPS platform
	2	Age-related grammar & punctuation Practise the knowledge and skills being developed in class		
	3	Developing writing Complete a writing task from the selection for this half term	Up to 30 minutes	

Maths Fluency

Progression		Task	Suggested Time	Links/Support
ESSENTIAL	1	Numbots Learn key number fluency skills	5-10 minutes per day (maximum 5 out of 7 days)	Numbots TT Rock Stars
	2	TT Rock Stars - Garage Develop accuracy for the multiplication tables up to 12 x 12		
	3	TT Rock Stars - Studio Develop speed for the multiplication tables up to 12 x 12		

Maths Knowledge

Progression		Task	Suggested Time	Links/Support
ESSENTIAL	1	Catch-up maths Practise the core maths knowledge and skills	Complete task to excellence level – master it if you can	Currently IXL Or My Maths
	2	Age-related maths Practise the knowledge and skills being developed in class		
	3	Developing maths Develop new knowledge and skills and/or use these to investigate	Up to 30 minutes	



CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Homework Consultation



Wider Curriculum and Safety & Wellbeing

	Task	Suggested Time	Links/Support
CHOICE	Subject specific knowledge Learn key information from the relevant knowledge organiser for each subject	5-10 minutes per day (maximum 5 out of 7 days)	Links to relevant year group resources
	Life skills Read or watch key information about safety and wellbeing – take a quiz to show your knowledge.	10-20 minutes per week	Links to CJS website and possible quiz