



CHESSWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Homework Guidance



Chesswood are following research led guidance in many areas of school life; we have made changes to homework to follow the research guidance available at the moment and taking into consideration feedback received from our consultation in June.

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.

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.

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.

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. [Help: how to log in](#). 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. Children will be taught how access their homework in class and how to show they have completed it.

The option for teacher responses to homework will not be used; feedback will be given weekly in the form of Top 10 celebrations, reading targets and ongoing lesson support.

Teachers can explain more about their choices for your child and their homework competition during parent consultation meetings.

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. However, some families will still prefer/need to complete homework in one go, which is fine.



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Homework expectations

There are 3 levels of homework expectations so that parents and children can be more involved in their educational choices.

MUST	These are non-negotiable and evidence is strong that they improve educational outcomes. They must be completed each week.
SHOULD	Most children should complete these each week – they are linked to prior learning or future learning and will support lessons in school – teachers will be able to use the results for assessment purposes. IXL expectations have changed: only one activity is chosen; ideally children will master this activity; rewards will still be given for children reaching excellence (getting in the challenge zone).
COULD	The list of activities for the half-term can be done in any order. All will benefit the child but it is a choice whether to use your time to pursuit these activities.

As always, if your 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.

Homework progressions

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	Suggested Time	Links/Support
1	Developing fluency	X minutes per day or X hours per week	Links
2	Age-related expectations		
3	Greater depth study		

Homework – MUST, SHOULD, COULD

English - Reading			
Progression	Task	Suggested Time	Links/Support
MUST	1	Developing reading fluency Read with an adult or older sibling to become a more fluent reader	'A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Read' Accelerated Reader AR Book Finder Free reading resources 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
MUST	1	Developing phonics Learn phonics letters and sounds with an adult	Little and often until confident Advise 5-10 minutes per day, max.5 days. (If needing more than 50 minutes to learn, inform teacher) Spelling resources
	2	Catch-up spellings Learn key spellings and words	
	3	Age-related spellings Learn the class spellings	



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Maths Fluency

Progression		Task	Suggested Time	Links/Support
MUST	1	Numbots Learn key number fluency skills	Little and often. Advise 5-10 minutes per day, max.5 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		

English – Writing (Grammar and Punctuation)

Progression		Task	Suggested Time	Links/Support
SHOULD	1	Catch-up grammar & punctuation Learn the key knowledge and skills	Complete specific IXL task to excellence level – master it if you can! (Max. 30 minutes)	IXL BBC Bitesize
	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 Knowledge

Progression		Task	Suggested Time	Links/Support
SHOULD	1	Catch-up maths Practise the core maths knowledge and skills	Complete specific IXL task to excellence level – master it if you can! (Max. 30 minutes)	IXL BBC Bitesize
	2	Age-related maths Practise the knowledge and skills being developed in class		
	3	Developing maths Complete a maths task from the selection for this half term	Up to 30 minutes	

Wider Curriculum and Safety & Wellbeing

		Task	Suggested Time	Links/Support
COULD		Subject specific knowledge Learn key information from the relevant knowledge organiser for each subject	5-10 minutes per day (max. 5 days)	Links to relevant year group resources provided directly
		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 provided directly on year page
		IXL Focus on another area of IXL with the greatest need. Answer as many questions as possible or master/excel at as many skills as possible to improve your termly certificate of achievement.	10-20 minutes per week	Link to achievements page