



CHESWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Homework Guidance



Introduction

Chesswood changed homework last year to fit in better with research-led guidance. Certain aspects of this worked well, while other aspects did not make life easier for pupils, families or teachers. We are making slight alterations again this year to utilise the positive changes and try to address the issues.

Homework cycle

Homework will continue to 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. This cycle was preferable to the previous cycle used (Wednesday to Tuesday).

How the child receives homework

Microsoft Office will no longer be used for homework – this did not prove popular and did not provide the level of information for teachers that we expected.

The new format will revert to paper and website, although, to reduce paper (and hopefully teacher workload), homework tasks for an entire half term have been amalgamated onto two A4 sheets. This should make it easy for pupils/families to see expectations and account for what they have completed each week. These will be printed and placed in the pink homework books, but will also be available on the school website, with simple links to support resources and further extensions as required.

Individualised homework

Homework will continue to be set at three different levels for each year group, with some individual children being provided with bespoke homework options to best meet their needs.

Children with Level 1 homework (developing fluency) will receive a different homework sheet to Level 2 & 3 to allow for more bespoke options. Level 2 (age-related expectations) and Level 3 (greater depth study) are combined to enable children to see the homework they should be completing and what they can achieve if they reach towards the next level. Children will be informed which level they should be working at. Teachers can explain more about their choices for your child during parent consultation meetings.

Homework expectations

The 3 levels of homework expectations (Must, Should, Could) have been replaced with 2 levels (Main and Choice). Last year, we saw a huge, unintentional dip in number of questions answered in IXL; we have also reacted to feedback about IXL to reduce the mastery requirement and remove the essential need to achieve 100. The main homework tasks are all linked to the core skills of reading, writing and maths and must be completed weekly: pupils who complete their homework regularly do benefit from this in the classroom. There is also a 'Choice' option for children and families to learn more about other areas of the curriculum.

The minimum expectations for homework are explained in a very clear format, with minimum aims and challenge targets linked to our Jedi Awards and certificates:

- Time – minimum expectations
- Aims – minimum expectations required
- Challenge – achievement needed to reach the required Jedi status
- Extension – extra work to complete if the homework task is too easy



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Support

If your child is struggling with the challenge of any of the tasks to the extent that they are becoming upset, STOP! Try some other homework instead and report what your child was struggling with to the class teacher. Homework is set to support education by embedding knowledge and improving independence as the child gets older – building towards secondary school expectations. We do not wish to create stressful situations at home, so please discuss any issues with the school and we will seek to suggest ways to support your child.

Homework support is routinely provided through lessons, such as, reading comprehension, spelling, writing (including grammar and punctuation) and maths. We also run an after-school homework club for children with lack of internet or computer access at home or lack of suitable environment to study or poor homework completion. Additionally, there is a specific homework support group each week for selected pupils. If you feel your child requires the additional support of homework club or homework support, please contact the year leader – this can be done via the class teacher.

Celebration and reporting

Teachers will continue to celebrate homework completion in the form of Top 10 celebrations and reading target achievement. Comments about homework completion will also continue to form part of the teacher judgements on school reports.

Little and often

Research shows that studying 'little and often' is better for knowledge to build up in the long-term memory. Therefore, the suggested minimum timings can be split up into smaller chunks on a daily basis or managed in smaller blocks throughout the week. However, some families prefer to complete all homework on particular days to fit with their personal needs (i.e. clubs, access technology), which is also perfectly acceptable.

Homework online

To see the homework for this half term, please follow the links on our website:

www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk Home > Learning > Home Learning > Homework