



Homework at New Christ Church Primary School

Information for Parents

We have written a new policy for homework, which has involved parents, children, Governors and staff. This leaflet will give you the information you will need in order to support your child with their homework.

It is important to remember that we give children homework:

- To help parents and carers support learning at home
- To enable children to practice key skills at home
- To use other resources outside of school to support learning - such as local libraries, books at home
- To help children prepare for the expectations of secondary school.

What homework will be set for each child?

Reception	3 activities/week		maths, handwriting, practical
Years 1 and 2	3 activities/week	10 minutes per activity	spellings, number bonds
Class 3/4	5 activities/week	10 minutes per activity	maths, literacy, topic
Classes 4/5, 5/6	5 activities/week	20 minutes per activity	maths, literacy, topic

Please do not ask your child to work longer than these recommended times unless they are particularly keen to do so.



Reading

We expect all children to read regularly at home. Where possible, this should be every day. Below are guidelines for parents to support reading at home:

Reception/Years 1 and 2

Children should read every day with an adult or older sibling; the Reading Record should be signed by the parent or sibling to show that reading took place.

Years 3 and 4

Children should be reading to themselves more often and with an adult 2 or 3 times a week. The Reading Record should be signed by the parent each time they hear their child read. Independent readers should complete the Reading Record for themselves.

Years 5 and 6

Children will usually be reading to themselves, unless otherwise directed by the teacher. It is a good idea for parents to continue to hear their child read on a weekly basis. The Reading Record must be completed each time the child reads.

Your child's teacher may ask you to read with your child more often than is stated above - please work positively with your child's teacher so we can ensure all our children become readers!

Role of Parents

You are important!

Please provide a quiet place where children can do their homework. All written tasks should be completed at a table or desk. Encourage neat presentation and handwriting.

Make sure your child knows that you think homework is important - if you see homework as something fun and positive, so will your child! Provide encouragement and praise all efforts - don't worry if you think your child has got their homework 'wrong'. Wrong answers tell us a lot about a child's learning!



What will happen if my child doesn't do their homework?

There are many reasons why a child might not do their homework - we understand these. If a child regularly doesn't hand in homework, they will be asked to meet with the Head Teacher to discuss the problems. The Head Teacher may discuss the situation with parents, or may revise the child's homework schedule. She may also ask the child to stay in at lunchtime to complete homework tasks. Each situation will be different, and the response will meet the needs of each child as far as is practicably possible.

How will homework be managed?

Every child will have a homework folder.

Homework will be sent home on a Monday and collected the following Monday.

Homework will be marked throughout the week and returned to the child by the next Monday.

This means that families can plan when homework tasks are completed, at times which suit the routines and patterns of family life.

Special Projects

At each half term break, children will be given a research based project to be completed, which will encourage the development of independent research skills and presentation of information. The amount of time given to this will be dictated by parents according to the plans they have made for the holiday period. Projects will be collected on the first day back after the break.



"My child doesn't seem to be getting any homework, is this right?"

You will have seen from the guidance that your child should get regular homework. A quick check with their class teacher will give you the information that you need. There may be the odd occasion when homework isn't given, but generally, it should be a regular event.

"My child is getting too much / too little homework."

You will see above that there is a suggested amount for each phase. Naturally, we all work at different paces. One suggestion is that a parent signs the piece of work or their diary / reading record to say how long it took. This will be invaluable feedback to the teacher to help them design the work most appropriately to the needs of your child.

"I really don't want my child to do homework at all, what do I do?"

There are real benefits to doing homework as it reinforces the learning taking place in school. We would wish all children to at least 'have a go'. If you feel that your child has done enough, please sign their work and state how much time has been spent on it—something is better than nothing. If however, you still do not wish your child to do homework, you must write a letter to the Headteacher.

"What will happen if my child does not complete homework?"

If there is a genuine reason why homework has not been completed, please contact the class teacher and arrange a proposal for when it will be handed in. If a child, despite both the efforts of school and home working together still fails to do homework, the child will meet to discuss homework issues with the Head Teacher. Low level sanctions such as completing it at lunchtime may be used.

"Despite all the approaches mentioned, I still have a problem with homework, now what?"

As with all concerns that you may have, please approach the Headteacher if all other avenues have failed to provide a satisfactory solution.