



## **Homework at Christ Church School – some frequently asked questions**

### **Why do we set the amount of homework that we do? Why don't we set more?**

Children work hard in our school each day. They should also have time to play, relax and take part in a range of extra-curricular activities. We don't want to fill too much of their out-of-school time with homework tasks. This is also why we don't set any compulsory homework over holidays – children should have time to do other things with their families which can provide important learning experiences, too.

The amount of homework we set builds through the school - the amounts are set out on the attached guidelines.

All parents do, of course, provide additional learning activities for their children at home – how much you do this and the format the activities take will vary from family to family.

### **Why do we set any homework at all, then?**

We set homework for a number of reasons:

- To encourage children to share and talk about some of their learning in school with families at home. This also means parents and families get a better idea of what their children have been learning in school.
- To build in all children a positive attitude towards continuing their learning at home – there will be plenty of homework at secondary schools and we want all children to have a positive attitude towards learning and working at home.
- To consolidate children's learning in school. Children learn best when they practise and review new skills and knowledge - setting homework provides one opportunity for children to do this.

### **Why is all homework set on a Thursday and due back on a Tuesday?**

We know that all children and families have very different routines at home. We want to make sure that homework is set consistently and on the same day each week so that completing homework can be fitted into families' busy schedules. This particularly helps families with several children in the school or children who live between two homes during the week. We set homework on the days that we do so that children could leave their main homework task(s) to complete at the weekend or they could do it all on week days and leave the weekend free. We also want to make sure there are a couple of nights in the week (Tuesday and Wednesday) when there is no pressure at all to complete a homework task. We do encourage children to read every day, though.

### **What happens to the homework children complete?**

All homework that's completed in the set time will be marked or responded to in some way – this might include a discussion about the homework or the homework being displayed or shared with others. Many pieces of homework are added into the sequence of children's work in their exercise books. This is why it's very helpful if children mark their homework with an H in the corner so it's clear which pieces of work have been completed at home and at school.

### **What if homework causes anxiety or stress?**

Homework shouldn't be a cause of anxiety or stress. We do ask that parents encourage children to complete the homework tasks and we try very hard to make sure that children are set tasks appropriate for their abilities. If homework is causing anxiety at home or you think the homework set is too difficult for your child, please speak to your child's class teacher. If a particular task is causing difficulties, it's fine for your child to stop. If they can try again at another time please support this or, if not, let the class teacher know why the task is not completed.

### **How independent should homework be? How can parents support with homework?**

This varies through the school. The homework we set in Reception is designed to be completed with a parent or carer but the homework set in Years 5 and 6 should mostly be able to be completed independently. Of course, even in these older year groups, we'd like to encourage parents to take an interest in the work their children are set for homework and to encourage them to complete it to the best of their ability.

The best way to support children with completing homework tasks is to give them a space and time and encouragement and interest from parents at home. If you have provided a lot of help with something, please let us know.

### **Why do we set all sorts of different homework tasks?**

Homework tasks vary from week to week and class to class within the attached guidelines. Children may be set tasks in English, Maths or any other subject. We try to set a range of different subjects over the term. Sometimes tasks are creative ones or research ones and these may take several weeks to complete. Some tasks may involve written work and others may not. Children have different skills, interests and talents and we want to give children the opportunity to consolidate and share their learning at home in all areas of the curriculum.

If you have any other questions about homework...please speak to your child's class teacher.

**Thank you very much to all parents and families for all the support you provide  
with your child's learning.**

## **Homework in Reception and Key Stage One**

In Reception children take home books from school on a regular basis and it is hoped that parents will listen to their children read each day and help them to practise and learn their sounds and high frequency words and practise letter formation on a weekly basis. A weekly creative activity is also sent home to be completed with parents.

We follow Government guidelines in expecting children in Years 1 and 2 to spend about 1 hour a week on homework activities.

<u>Year 1.</u>	<u>Year 2</u>
Daily reading (Aim for 5 minutes a day)	Daily reading (Aim for 5/10 minutes a day)
1 task of either English, Maths, Science, RE or topic.	1 task of either English, Maths, Science, RE or topic
Spellings for a weekly spelling test	Spellings for a weekly spelling test
	Key mental maths skills for a weekly test from later in the year

## **Homework in Key Stage Two.**

We follow Government guidelines in expecting children in Years 3 and 4 to spend about 1½ hours a week on homework activities.

<u>Year 3.</u>	<u>Year 4.</u>
Daily reading (Aim for 10 minutes per day)	Daily reading (Aim for 15 minutes per day)
1 task of either English, Maths, Science, RE or topic	1 task of either English, Maths, Science, RE or topic.
Spellings for a weekly spelling test.	Spelling for a weekly spelling test.
Times tables/mental maths skills for a weekly test.	Times tables/mental maths skills for a weekly test.

We follow Government guidelines in expecting children in Years 5 and 6 to spend about 2½ hours a week on homework activities.

<u>Year 5.</u>	<u>Year 6.</u>
Daily reading (Aim for 20 minutes per day)	Regular reading.
2 tasks of either English, Maths, Science, RE or topic	2 tasks of either English, Maths, Science, RE or topic
1 longer task of topic work.	1 longer task e.g. research project.
Spellings for a weekly spelling test.	Spellings for a weekly spelling test.
Times tables/mental maths skills for a weekly test	Times tables/mental maths skills for a weekly test
	Revision for end of Key Stage Assessments

Children may also be expected to work on independent projects to be completed over a period of time e.g. a term, a half term.

## **Guidelines and general reminders for Homework at Christ Church School**

- The amount of homework set should be limited so that children still have plenty of time for playing and other out of school activities
- Homework for all classes is sent home on a Thursday and is expected to be handed in on the following Tuesday. Information about homework tasks is sent home on a weekly homework sheet.
- There may be occasions when additional tasks may be given; equally there may be times when the class teacher is unable to give homework. However, every effort will be made to set homework in the event of long term staff illness.
- Homework is not set over any school holidays.
- Homework sheets should be kept in a homework folder to keep work neat on its journey to and from school.
- Homework should be named and dated, marked with H to show it is homework and completed in pencil.
- Parents should write a short note in the child's school diary or speak to class teachers directly if there are circumstances that resulted in children not being able to complete homework.
- Homework must never cause unhappiness, stress or anxiety to the child or the family, because this will discourage learning. If homework is taking too long or children are becoming upset or anxious, parents should not insist that children complete work, but speak to the class teacher.
- All homework which is completed in the time set will be marked or responded to in some way e.g. discussed, displayed. As set out in our marking and feedback policy, children will get the opportunity to see marking comments/receive feedback on their homework.
- Wherever possible, children should complete their homework in an environment which is conducive to concentration so that it will enable the child to produce work to the best of their ability i.e. sitting at a table in a relatively quiet room.
- There is an expectation from the school that all children will attempt their homework each week. Failure to do homework on a regular basis will result in children and parents/carers being invited into school to discuss this with the class teacher or Head teacher. Support from parents/carers is greatly appreciated in ensuring that homework is successfully completed and that it is a positive and rewarding experience.

## **Home/ school partnership:**

Parents/ carers are asked to support homework by:

- Ensuring homework is completed
- Checking homework folders to see what homework has been set.
- Notifying the class teacher of any concerns (e.g. through the home school book)
- Being jointly responsible, with their child, for the safe keeping of the homework.
- Wherever possible giving the child enough time to complete the homework so it is done to the best of their ability.
- Offering support and encouragement to their children when they are completing homework and being interested in what they have been learning at school. However, homework should be the child's own effort, please!