

Churchfields Homework

At Churchfields we appreciate the support that parents give to their children's learning outside school. Our homework policy reflects recent educational research on how best to support children in all aspects of their development.

KS1 homework

Daily reading

Spellings for weekly test

Mental maths – maths passports/mathletics

Topic-based homework – minimum of 1 per new term (to start from Term 2)

Maths weekly homework

KS2 homework

Reading x3 per week

Spellings for weekly test

Mental maths – maths passports/mathletics

KS2 – times tables for weekly test

Topic-based homework – minimum of 2 per new term

Please record reading in the home-school book, and encourage your child to tell your teacher when they feel they are ready to be tested on their passport. Mathletics certificates are printed out and awarded in assemblies.

Topic homework

Topic-based homework offers the children a chance to explore their learning in their own way and to undertake more collaborative projects if they would like to. They are designed to allow the children to express their own particular interests. Ideas are given around a topic, but children are free to interpret them in their own way. We have had some very creative homework in the past, which have proved inspirational to others.

In response to feedback, we have also included some more structured formats as suggestions for those who would prefer greater guidance.

Children must complete a minimum of two pieces (KS2) or one piece (KS1) of homework per short term, and will be given a certificate with feedback upon completion. Presenting their work in class is a fantastic way to develop their speaking and listening skills, and children are able to celebrate each other's success. At KS1, children will be given specific days to present their homework to their classmates.

Homework survey feedback

Following recent changes to homework in KS2, which were designed as a result of government research into the impact of homework on primary school children, we embarked on a consultation exercise with parents to evaluate the success of this topic-based approach. More than 30 parents completed this survey, which was a very pleasing response.

Homework is a contentious issue, and the responses reflected this with some parents clearly stating that they saw home time as distinct from school and an opportunity to engage in different forms of learning with their children without any set homework. Others would prefer a more structured approach and support the setting of regular maths and grammar worksheets.

There was strong support for the new topic-based homework in KS2, with 81% of KS2 parents supporting it. 87% of parents in KS1 were in favour of this approach. The chief reasons given were that children were more engaged with their homework and were offered a wider range of learning opportunities and that parents enjoyed spending time learning with their children.

There were several suggestions for how this homework could be improved. Parents reported that they felt that feedback given was not sufficient, and that they would prefer further structure, with regular deadlines given for completion.

We hope that the changes we have made in response to this parent survey will help address many of the concerns and will ensure that time spent on home learning is profitable for the children and as enjoyable as possible for all concerned!

We will continue to review our homework provision to ensure the best outcomes for all.