

Homework Card Feedback February 2016

	Agree	Mostly Agree	Mostly Disagree	Disagree
I feel more informed about the homework my child should be completing	75.0%	22.5%	2.5%	0.0%
I think my child is being asked to complete the right type of homework (reading, spellings, maths with the option of doing topic work)	70.7%	29.3%	0.0%	0.0%
I think my child is being asked to complete the right amount of homework	56.1%	29.3%	4.9%	9.8%
I like being given my child's test scores each week	84.6%	12.8%	2.6%	0.0%
I like being able to share things my child does outside of school on the homework card	82.9%	17.1%	0.0%	0.0%
I like the choice of topic activities my child can choose to do	78.0%	19.5%	0.0%	2.4%
I like the fact that I can see the homework for the whole half term on one card so I can see what's coming next	87.8%	12.2%	0.0%	0.0%
I like the fact that the whole school is completing homework in this way, regardless of the class my child is in	82.1%	17.9%	0.0%	0.0%

Some comments:

"Sometimes it feels like it's me that has the homework but it's a good encouragement for me to do things with him to help with his learning." Foundation parent

"It has reinvigorated our home educational support. I feel it includes parents more in the learning of our children and enjoy the activities and discovering what our daughter can do. It leads to some interesting conversations!" Foundation parent

"It would be helpful to know what they need to improve on more regularly than twice a year." Y3 parent

In response to this comment, I think it worth pointing out that this year parents have been invited in to meet their child's class teacher in September, there are also three opportunities at Open House afternoons, when children's work can be looked at, and teachers are present at all of these times to answer questions. You will also receive a full report in July. If you are still concerned about the amount of feedback you are receiving please contact me via the school email address or the school office.

“Few issues between school/home life balance. My children do a lot outside of school and it is difficult to fit homework in as well. Also difficulty getting one child to sit down and read let alone anything else.” Y1 & Y5 parent

“For Y1 students I feel the amount of work they are being given is too much.” Y1 parent

“Too much reading, 5 times a week is too much.” Y1 parent

“I really like the way homework is carried out & the fact there is a choice. It’s made my child more keen to work and learn about topics she enjoys. The only thing I find a bit too much is the 5 x reading as sometimes, for example, she likes to read a whole book in a sitting so 5 takes a lot of time.”

In response to these comments with regard to homework in Y1, I would like to keep the expectation that they read 5 times each week as there is a lot of evidence to suggest that children learn to read better in sessions that are little and often. I think there should be an expectation of about 10 minutes for each reading session or 50-60 minutes over the whole week. Y1 teachers will be looking at the amount of homework set for the summer term but I would encourage you to find the time that suits your child best to complete their homework each day. Some children are better working in the morning or later in the afternoon rather than straight after school. Spellings and maths facts can often be completed on car journeys or on walks, they don’t have to be sit down paper exercises. I will try to compile a list of suggested ways homework can be completed so it does not conflict so much with the children’s other activities – which we would like written on the card so they too can be celebrated.

“When it comes to the spelling test we would like her answers back so we can see which words she is struggling with.” Y1 parent

“My child seems happy in school which is the main thing. Still not sure on the spellings, the way they are learnt, but maybe just more practice is needed.” Y2 parent

“The only disagreement is the new spelling rule. I think it’s really disheartening for the children if they’re constantly getting low scores because they’ve learnt 10 different words, especially children who need support and can only learn by memory. I would like a set spelling list that all the children have to learn and just explain the rule.” Y1 & Y5 parent

“Just wondering whether each spelling rule could be spread over 2 weeks? Still have a weekly test, but different words each time (or maybe a couple the same) to try to reinforce the words further. Although we find the new spelling system an improvement on learning a list of words, there is still potential to forget again – an extra week on the same rule may help it to sink in properly. Failing this, occasional revision sessions e.g. every 4th week.” Y2 parent

In response to these comments regarding the spelling system, there is much evidence that simply learning a list of words does not improve children’s spelling in their everyday writing, which is its purpose. I think we need to give a short list of words with each spelling rule as an illustration and I will speak to class teachers to ensure this becomes consistent across the school. We cannot send spelling test books home, as we know that unfortunately we would not get them all back each week. I will speak to the teachers and see if more feedback can be given without taking teachers and teaching assistants away from actually working with the children.

“There are too many homework options on the card. We complete what we can but read every night.” Y1 parent

In response to the options, they really are optional. We want you to support the focus on basic skills in English and maths and the children have the option to complete the topic work, which many of them enjoy doing.

“We love the homework card. My child looks forward to homework, I just wish she would do the same at school as she does at home.” Y1 parent