

"It's great being able to choose what I want to do!" - Y4 child

"I now love doing (some) homework!" - Y4 child

"I love finding out the new tasks!" - Y4 child

Homework

- THE NEW OAKLANDS' HOMEWORK GRID



Homework - background



- ▶ 1998 homework guidelines (non-statutory):
 - ▶ 1 hour per week KS1.
 - ▶ Half an hour per night KS2.
- ▶ Guidelines scrapped in 2012 by Michael Gove.
- ▶ Some recent studies have questioned the value of 'traditional' homework but nothing conclusive:
 - ▶ 'It is not possible from the available data to make unequivocal statements about the effectiveness of homework overall in assisting student learning.'
- ▶ Many primary schools now moving away from traditional forms of homework to 'Homework grids'.
- ▶ SLT started to investigate this style of homework at the start of the academic year.

What are 'Homework Grids'?



- ▶ 'Homework grids':
 - ▶ Range of tasks.
 - ▶ Element of choice.
 - ▶ Some are designed to be completed 'as a family'.
 - ▶ More open-ended tasks.
 - ▶ No weekly deadline but NOT a project!
 - ▶ Greater parental involvement – without them having to do the work (!) – which leads to better outcomes.

Y4 trial of a 'Homework Grid'

- ▶ Trialled in Y4 since January to replace 'English' homework.
 - ▶ Maths, reading & spelling still set.
 - ▶ This will be the same for other year groups (apart from Y3).
- ▶ Feedback overall very positive:
 - ▶ "Really works for us as a family."
 - ▶ "We can now do homework when it suits us as a family."
 - ▶ "My child loves the flexibility of being able to choose the tasks he wants to do."
 - ▶ "This new format has added much enjoyment to what would have otherwise been a tick box exercise."
 - ▶ "Choosing the activities for himself has given our son a sense of control in working on areas that he is really interested in."
 - ▶ "[It] has allowed for creativity and enhanced understanding, making sessions much easier and fun!"
 - ▶ "My daughter found it hard to get started and decide what to do."

Homework – The new Oaklands' way

- ▶ Process:
 - ▶ Grid handed out ([Example](#)).
 - ▶ Work handed in (in homework folder) at the beginning of the following half-term.
 - ▶ Presentation element.
 - ▶ Peer assessment.
 - ▶ Teacher marks and returns folder.
- ▶ Rolled out to all year groups at the start of the summer term.