

Oaklands Junior School

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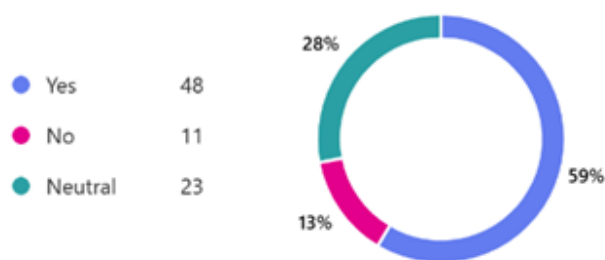
12th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank-you to all those parents who took the time to complete our homework survey. We received 82 responses in total.

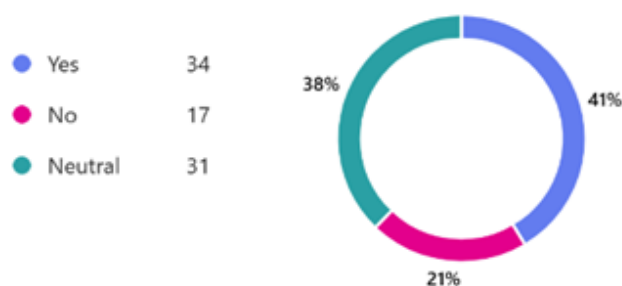
While there was no consensus of opinion about homework, the data shows that the majority of children prefer the new homework approach.

Question: My child prefers the new system of homework



Similarly, the vast majority of parents expressed a neutral or positive opinion towards the current system.

Question: I prefer the new system



Considering the significant change, moving away from a predominantly online system, we are pleased that the response is generally positive.

The main reasons behind the changes to homework were to include a broader range of curriculum subjects and to increase opportunities for parents to engage with their children's learning and to offer insights in to the core knowledge that children expected to recall.

We received some lovely comments, such as 'we have enjoyed the varied tasks', 'less screen time', 'the variety of topics covered and the variety in tasks set, that encourage other skills over and above using a tablet', and 'I have a greater awareness of their learning and it tends to lead them to talk about other topics they are learning at school',

There were a significant number of responses that preferred Doodle as a homework platform. One reason for us no longer using Doodle is that we had a lot of negative feedback about both the content and the accuracy of assessment data, as well as the difficulty some parents had getting their children to do the tasks. In addition, the cost to the school was prohibitive at £3,500 per year. When the £9,400 currently owed to the school by parents for trips is taken in to account, we simply cannot afford the subscription to this service. To pay support staff to run an after-school homework club, as requested in a few responses, or to ask teachers to take on additional tasks when they already run a large amount of free clubs in their own time is not viable. These free opportunities are unique to Oaklands Junior School and we hope to continue providing them cost-free.

In order to make the maths and English tasks more accessible we intend to add a selection of tasks, in pdf format, to Teams from the start of the Summer term. In addition, we are formulating a plan for feedback to be provided on a consistent basis. Responses also highlighted that there is a need to support parents in helping their children with times tables and other fundamental skills in maths and English.

Therefore, on Tuesday 18th March we will be holding a parent support session on 'Helping your child at home.' Details of this will be shared nearer the time, but we plan to run sessions at 14:30 and 17:00 to allow as many parents as possible to attend. In the meantime, we have put together a list of helpful websites that should help with practising times tables, which was sent out last week, as this was a particular issue raised in a number of responses.

Once again, thank-you for your responses and please do let us know what can be done to improve homework in the future and we will endeavour to address as many issues as possible.

If you are interested in supporting the school and having your voice heard in person, Mr Lee runs a regular Comms group for parents to discuss everything Oaklands and to develop a positive flow of information between home and school. To join this group, please contact Mr Lee either in person or via the school email address: admin@oaklands-jun.wokingham.sch.uk .

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Holland
Head of School