



### Homework Questionnaire for parents (Whole school 94 responses)

1. If you receive a year group **newsletter**, does it help you to know what your child is currently learning?

Strongly agree <b>40</b>	Agree <b>46</b>	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know <b>3</b>	Not applicable <b>3</b>
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We really enjoy reading about what the children learn at school.

It is very clear and precise.

Relevant and informative.

Could it mention who has done well and acknowledge achievements? **Children who have achieved well during the week have their achievements celebrated in Celebration Assemblies and the recipients of Super Star and Head Teacher Awards are named on the school website.**

It's lovely to know what they are up to but I'd love to see more photos. **Adding photographs would increase the size of the newsletter, increasing photocopying. Also, some parents would prefer their children's photographs not to be widely circulated.**

Very helpful to keep abreast of current topics so you can support learning.

They can help us to ask relevant questions.

2. Which of these statements best describes your thoughts about **the amount** of homework set?

Usually about the right amount <b>66</b>	Usually too much <b>5</b>	Usually not enough <b>15</b>	It varies a lot <b>6</b>	Don't know
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It doesn't take long but they ARE only 6 so they are too young to be overwhelmed by too much homework.

Reception age children shouldn't have homework.

I'd be happy with more.

It's nice that there are weekly tasks on Spelling Shed.

It would be better to have daily homework than weekly. **We ask the children to read every day if possible but daily homework would be unmanageable for many parents. However, children can always access Spelling Shed daily, as well as going over their mental maths facts.**

The amount is good as it allows time for reading.

It needs to cover a bit of all concepts but is usually limited to one of two subjects. **It is right that reading, writing and maths should be the focus of most homework but we do set science, topic or research-based homework from time to time.**

3. Which of these statements best describes **your** thoughts about **the type** of homework set?

We like a variety of online, worksheets, reading and other <b>51</b>	We prefer online <b>5</b>	We prefer worksheets <b>36</b> <b>(19 from reception)</b>	We prefer other types such as research or handwriting <b>9</b>	Don't know <b>1</b>
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Online is tricky.

My son enjoys online learning activities.

Worksheets help children to practise handwriting as well.

It would be nice to have more research-based tasks.

4. Which of these statements best describes your child's **attitude** to homework?

They enjoy showing what they can do. <b>52</b>	They enjoy some types. <b>24</b>	They don't particularly enjoy it but they do it. <b>15</b>	It is a battle or they won't do it. <b>4</b>	Don't know <b>1</b>
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My child loves homework.

She would often rather play, but when she gets down to it she often seems engaged.

She enjoys doing it and is eager to finish it on the same day it is set.

Attitude depends on multiple factors, such as tiredness, busy week etc.

She always tells us what she has learned with excitement.

It could be more hands-on: creative or crafts.

He enjoys online; writing and maths are a struggle.

Responds well to maths.

5. Which of these statements describes **your attitude** to helping your child with their homework?

It's great! I enjoy the chance to do things together and be involved in their learning. <b>61</b>	It's usually OK. <b>26</b>	It's a bit of a nuisance but I know it needs to be done. <b>4</b>	I don't have time to do it.	I don't approve of homework.
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We always sit with her...she asks for help only when needed.

Homework is a shared activity and we have to make time for it.

It is definitely helping us to be together, focused on one thing, which we like.

Always willing to help...it's a great chance to see the level he's working at.

It's nice for her to show us how certain tasks are done.

I enjoy being able to be part of his learning.

With other children at home, it can be hard if they need more support.

6. Which of these statements best describes the **difficulty** of the homework?

The level of difficulty is usually about right. <b>65</b>	It is usually too easy. <b>13</b>	It is usually too hard. <b>1</b>	It varies a lot. <b>11</b>	Don't know <b>1</b>
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The purpose of our homework is to reinforce the week's learning. If children are able to complete it comfortably, it shows that they have mastered the required learning.

Is there a \*Challenge on your child's homework?      Yes **49**/ no **14** / don't know **19**

We do try to include a \*Challenge as often as possible. These are optional questions to be tackled if a child feels secure with the main activity. Although they may look like one question, they are often open-ended, have several possible answers or ask for an explanation rather than just giving a single right or wrong answer.

7. Which of these statements best describes the **independence** with which your child tackles homework?

They usually have our support to complete it. <b>39</b>	They sometimes ask for support. <b>29</b>	Just occasionally they ask for support. <b>19</b>	They always do it without support because they want to. <b>5</b>	They always do it without support because we don't have time to help.
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Our child will complete it independently but we ensure we are present to offer support if required.  
 We are learning to allow him to do homework independently and assist when asked.  
 We always do homework together but he rarely needs help answering questions.  
 My child asks for support more often than not.  
 We always need to sit and support the whole task.  
 He enjoys being independent.

8. Which of these statements describe the **reading** you do with your child?

We read with our child most days and record it in their reading record. <b>67</b>	We read with our child quite often but don't record it. <b>14</b>	We read with our child once or twice a week. <b>7</b>	We read bedtime stories but hardly ever read school books. <b>2</b>	We hardly ever read with our child. <b>1</b>
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We are better at writing it down now!  
 I wish we had more time to read with them. **If you only have time for one type of homework, make it reading!**  
 My child reads independently every day.  
 We encourage our oldest to read on her own as she likes this better than reading out loud. **Even capable readers should read aloud sometimes, as this enables adults to check that they are pronouncing words correctly and understanding trickier vocabulary. When they do read alone, it is a good idea to ask them to summarise what they have read...and please continue to write in their reading records!**  
 I'd like the books changed more regularly.  
 We'd like to have 3 books for the week. **Until the children can change books themselves, there is quite a big time-commitment in changing books and taking 3 books each would increase the number of books we needed to buy. However, Oxford Owl has a wide range of colour-coded reading books online and these can be accessed as often as you like.**  
 We find the reading a chore. It would be good if we could be trusted to read every day and then write comments of relevance only. **Sadly, not all families are willing or able to read every day and writing in the reading record enables us to track which children may need a little extra support in school as a result.**

9. Which of the following **programs** do you access at home? (tick all that apply)

Oxford Owl <b>46</b> <b>(Only 8 reception)</b>	Spelling Shed <b>52</b> <b>(Only 8 reception)</b>	DBPrimary <b>60</b>	Other educational websites <b>18</b>	No answer given/ NA <b>7</b> <b>(all reception)</b>
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**DBPrimary we used very successfully during the partial school closures to enable communication with families, setting of work and online games and tasks. A few reception families have mentioned that they do not find it easy to navigate, which has not been an issue before. We hope to have a computing and e-safety parent session before the end of the year where the various different online platforms and resources will be shared.**

10. Tell us more! For example: What type of homework would you like more of, does your child enjoy best, do you think is most worthwhile etc.? Are you happy with the current range of homeworks?

**Reception** – We are happy with the current range  
 We like a mix of maths and English.  
 Creative projects as well as writing and numbers.

More maths please as he loves numbers!  
The online task was fun so more would be good.  
Would benefit from more online learning as he enjoys this.  
It might be fun to have game-like learning at times.  
Put some fun in the homeworks.  
We would be happy with more.  
I don't agree with homework for 4-year olds.

**Year 1** – Paper-based is fine – it avoids screen time.

Breaks during the holidays are a good idea.  
I would like to see more research-based homework.  
More art and craft, not just maths and English.  
Maybe more science, history and geography  
She especially likes the practical maths activities like find 8 items, measure them and arrange them in order.  
Could they have 5 spellings to learn each week?  
Thank you to the teachers who take the time to produce and mark the homework!

**Year 2** – We think it is fine now.

Maybe more fun homework, like designing a poster or making something.  
My child enjoys the Spelling Shed App.  
The same but trickier please!

**How long** does their homework take each week?

The most frequent answer was 20-30 minutes a week plus reading.

Some said as little as 10 minutes, some said over an hour.

### **Key findings:**

- Parents like the year group newsletters which now form part of the homework.
- Most parents are happy with the amount and type of homework. Reception parents prefer worksheets.
- Most children enjoy some or all homework and most parents enjoy supporting them with it.
- Most parents felt that the level of difficulty was about right.
- Most parents who responded said they read with their child most days.
- Over half of the families that responded used different online resources provided by the school at times.