

Orchards Junior School – Year 6 Homework

Homework is an important aspect of your child's development as an independent learner. In year 6 we have designed a system which will enable pupils to extend and develop their understanding of the areas of study we are covering at school, as well as reinforce the knowledge they will need to prepare them for the NCT tests.

Every 1/2 term your child will come home with a homework grid with a number of tasks from which they are expected to **choose one per week** to complete. The completed task should be **shaded on the grid**. Each task is worth a number of points depending on the amount of time and work needed to fulfil it and these points are accumulated over the half term. Your child should aim to earn 10 points per week. Evidence from each task should be recorded in the homework book (this can be a photo of a model, printout of a computer document produced by your child or a written piece of work). We hope that the children will be motivated by having the choice about not only which task they will complete that week but also how they will present their learning.

Useful questions and answers:

Q) Can my child choose any activity from the grid?

A) Yes! We want them to choose a task that interests them and is also manageable for the time they have available that week.

Q) Am I allowed to help my child with their task?

A) Yes, we would love you to be involved in your child's home learning. Please work with them to plan how they are going to complete the task and talk with them about how their work is progressing. They should then feel confident and well equipped to tackle the task independently.

Q) If we don't have time to complete a task one week, can we catch up by completing 2 tasks the following week?

A) Yes, although this would only be acceptable if both tasks were completed to a good standard.

Q) What if my child and I struggle with homework at home?

A) Homework club is available after school on Tuesdays until 3:30pm for all year 6 pupils. Please make use of this facility if you are finding it difficult to manage at home.

Q) What reward/punishment will my child get if they do/don't complete their homework?

A) We will be celebrating the children's homework both in class and in our fortnightly year group assemblies. We give raffle tickets for pieces of work which show outstanding effort and commitment from the children and these get entered into our half termly prize tombola for a chance to win a £5 WHSmith's gift card. It is not school policy to give detentions for not completing homework (although individual teachers may choose to do so). We prefer to reward and encourage all pupils to develop their organisation and independence, in order to prepare them for the increased expectation placed on them at high school.

Every week, alongside the task from the grid, your child will also have a **maths task** to complete online at MyMaths.co.uk, and a list of **spellings** to learn and practice at home. They may also receive **top-up tasks** relating to specific areas of literacy (i.e. a short grammar or punctuation activity) in preparation for the NCT tests they will complete in May, although this will be specific to each literacy set and will not be each week.

The children can decorate their homework books when they receive them; they can use pictures, photos, decorative paper or their own drawings to reflect the things they like or are interested in. Any decoration will need to be completed in the first week as their teacher will then attach a label and cover the books in plastic to keep them looking nice throughout the year. If they chose not to decorate their books then we will simply label and cover them. We would advise the children to think carefully about their chosen decoration and produce a cover that they can be proud of.

If you have any questions relating to any of this information, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher to discuss it further.