

SUPPORTING LEARNING AT HOME

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Pupils' in-school learning can be greatly enhanced when supported by what they do at home. There are a number of things that parents/carers and pupils can do to help with children's learning which are set out in this guide.

HOME LEARNING TASKS

Pupils are set home learning tasks in order to embed and extend the learning which has taken place in school. The home learning set will depend on the Key Stage and is set out below:

KEY STAGE 2	Daily	Weekly
Maths	Mini	Maxi
English	Reading	Spelling
Other subjects	One subject based home learning/project every 3-4 weeks	
KEY STAGE 3	Daily	Weekly
Maths	Mini	Maxi
English	Reading	Spelling
	Written tasks weekly as determined by teacher	
Other subjects	One piece of work every fortnight	

Each year, a home learning timetable is published for KS3 pupils so that they can see at a glance when tasks will be set by their different subject teachers. This enables them to plan ahead so that they can best manage their time. Parents/carers can support greatly with this by helping pupils to develop a system for organising home learning and by checking regularly with their children to ensure they are up to date. Pupils record the home learning that has been set in their day books and parents/carers are advised to develop a routine for checking this record. Teachers also upload details of home learning tasks to Microsoft Teams. This also allows pupils who have been away for any reason to keep up to date.

While we encourage parents/carers to allow pupils to work as independently as possible, support with organisation is welcomed (in KS2 especially) so that pupils build routines that work well for them. We understand that families can be very busy and that lots of pupils have packed extra-curricular schedules. To support with this, parents/carers can signpost children to our in-school home learning room which pupils can access every lunchtime from 12:10-12:40. The room provides access to computers as well as a member of staff who can support pupils wishing to complete home learning during this time.

ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We offer a very wide range of extra-curricular opportunities at CCA. Encouraging your child to try out a new club is a great way of supporting their learning across the curriculum and developing attributes such as confidence and resilience. For full details of our extra-curricular offer, please visit the school website using this link-

<https://www.christchurchacademy.co.uk/beyond-the-classroom>.

BEING READY

Our three key expectations for pupils are to be **ready, respectful and responsible**. We very much value your support in ensuring that pupils are ready to learn each day. This means arriving to school punctually, in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment. It also means checking that home learning is complete and packed ready to hand in. Making sure that pupils arrive feeling organised and prepared makes a big difference to their readiness to learn.

Making sure that children arrive to school having had a good sleep and healthy breakfast will also ensure that they are best placed to learn effectively. For pupils who qualify for Pupil Premium, additional information can be found using the link below.

https://www.christchurchacademy.co.uk/user_uploads/files/Pupil%20Premium%20leaflet%20for%20parents.pdf

We will always do whatever we can to support to pupils who require support with equipment or uniform due to personal circumstances.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONVERSATION

One of the simplest and most powerful ways parents/carers can support their children's learning is to talk about what they have done during the school day. By asking questions, taking a real interest in what they have discovered and what they have achieved that day, we are able to build a culture of excitement and enthusiasm about learning. Asking children to explain what they have learned gives them a chance to embed their knowledge and understanding- something which is vital in remembering information long term and in boosting their confidence.

PREPARATION FOR ASSESSMENTS

During the school year, pupils will complete three key assessments each subject. These take place in class during 'assessment fortnights'. These assessments are designed to enable pupils to showcase what they have learned and to inform teachers about where pupils are at, allowing them to tailor future teaching to their needs. These tests are done in a supportive and low-stakes atmosphere (in normal lesson time) to help pupils feel comfortable and confident. The expectations around independence and the amount of content assessed increases as pupils move through the school. Your support in reminding pupils that they are being assessed in order to support their future development and not to 'catch them out' will help to reinforce our work in school.

To ensure that pupils get the very most out of this opportunity, you can support in a number of ways:

Preparation Methods - for most subjects, pupils are provided with knowledge organisers which contain details of core concepts and vocabulary within a topic. These resources can be found on Teams or pupils may be provided with paper copies to take home.

Knowledge organisers are useful tools when it comes to learning and recalling information. However, simply reading or copying is not the best way to get the most out of them. Learning happens when we have to think about what we are doing, and we can do this in a number of ways.

Suggested method for using knowledge organisers to self-test:

1. Pick a section of the knowledge organiser and read through it slowly and carefully.
2. Now turn over the knowledge organiser and write down as much as possible from memory.
3. Turn the knowledge organiser back over and look for anything that you missed.
4. Flip it back over one more time. Using a different colour pen, see if you can add in any extra information you missed the first time around.

Knowledge organisers can also be used to quickly quiz aloud. Simply having an adult or sibling ask questions based on the knowledge organiser and having to recall this information quickly is a very effective way of improving retention.

Other techniques you can use to support learning at home:

Draw spider diagrams or mind maps - Write a topic or keyword in the centre of the page. Add everything known about the topic in subtopics around the centre. Can any linked ideas be connected with a line? Colour and pictures will make the information more memorable. Check whether the key contents of the knowledge organiser have been recalled and understood. Any missing details or corrections can then be added in a different colour. This is an effective way of seeing which areas need to be recapped.

Create a set of flashcards. Write down keywords, questions or equations on one side of a card. On the other, write the definition or answer. Use these cards to self-quiz or have someone else ask the questions and check responses. Creating the flashcards will help children to remember the key information and quizzing helps to further develop recall.

Write out a list of key questions based on the knowledge organiser. Record yourself on your phone or tablet. Listen back and check the recording against the knowledge organiser. Can you include more information a second time?

Draw it! Draw pictures or diagrams to represent each of the ideas in the knowledge organiser. Once completed, use the diagrams to write out the information. Check it against the knowledge organiser, is there anything missing or that needs to be corrected? Add this in another colour so that any elements that are not yet well-known can be highlighted and recapped.