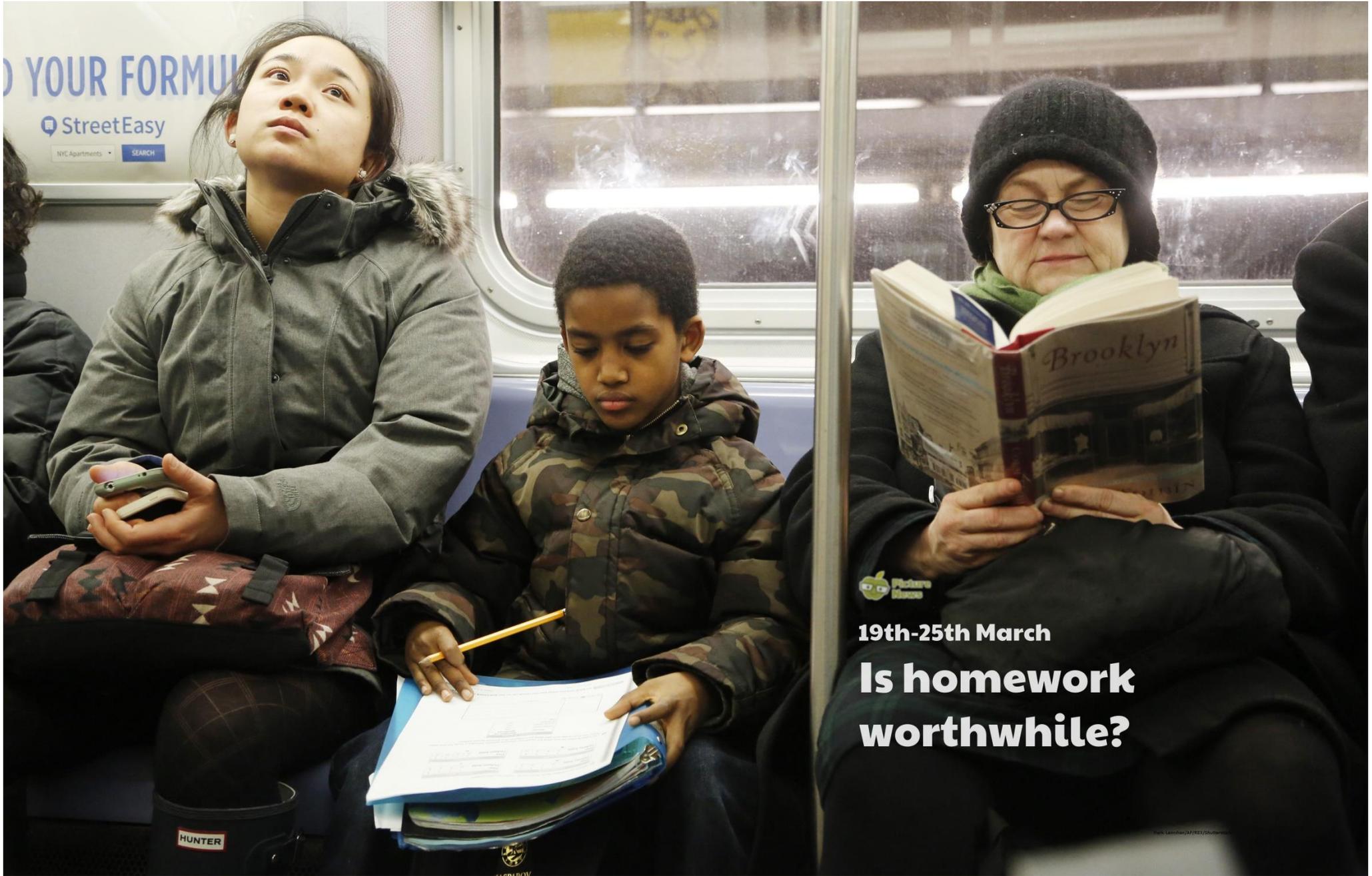


British Values

19th-25th March

Mutual Respect

It's important to respect the decisions made by our schools and teachers about the homework we are given. Homework should always help us become better learners. If we ever feel under too much pressure with our work, we must know that there will be someone in school who will help.



19th-25th March

**Is homework
worthwhile?**



© 2015 Cambridge University Press

Read through Norfolk headteacher Chris Aitken's thoughts about homework and why he decided to replace homework in its current form with the 'Choose' list at the schools he leads. Do you think it was a good idea? What do you think are the benefits and the disadvantages to replacing traditional homework? Looking at the activities list, which do you think might work well as alternatives to traditional homework?

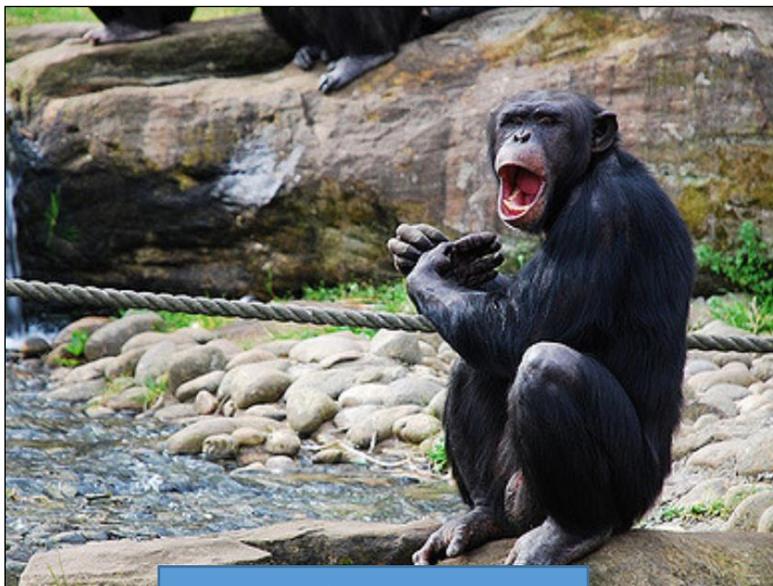
Last year, the primary schools I lead took what was generally thought of as a bold decision: to get rid of homework. My greatest frustration as a teacher – and the single biggest barrier to success for our pupils – is children who don't believe in themselves and who have no idea how great they are and how amazing they can become. Our alternative to homework is #Choose. We do not ask parents to drill their children with spelling lists, times tables, maths strategies, writing tasks or seemingly unending projects. We just ask that they use the time we have given them to do something as a family that nourishes their child's interests, something with an element of intrigue, challenge or meaning. We have an ever-expanding "#Choose List", which gives families ideas for what to do.

-Headteacher, Chris Aitken

Can you think of anything you would add to an alternative homework list?

-  When driving, see if you can find every letter of the alphabet, in order, on road signs, adverts or shop names.
-  Read stories to each other, these can be retold from memory or read from a book.
-  Follow a recipe and bake a cake or cook a meal (with help) for the rest of the family.
-  Write a play to produce and perform for family.
-  Ask a relative (who knows!) to teach you how to knit or sew.
-  Learn about what life used to be like by interviewing an elderly relative.

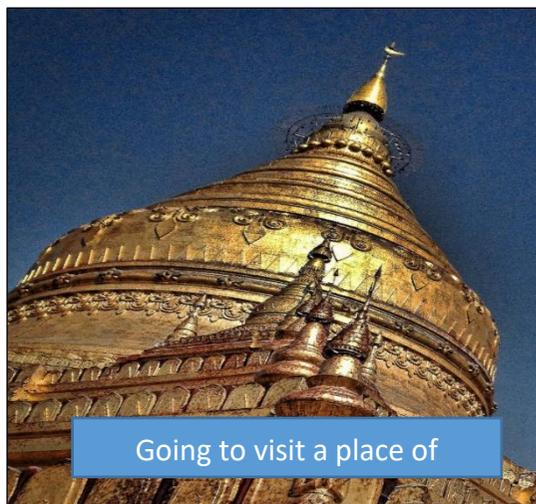
Look at the homework children have been asked to complete. Do any of these being set as homework surprise you?



A trip to a zoo.



Reading at home



Going to visit a place of



Practising writing stories at home.

Read through the different quotes and opinions about homework. Sort into those who are supportive of homework and those who aren't. Are there any who overlap?

I feel sorry for kids these days. They get so much homework. Remember the days when we put a belt around our two books and carried them home? Now they're dragging a suitcase. They have school all day, then homework from six until eleven. There's no time left to be creative.

-Tom Petty

I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework.
-Lily Tomlin

The team that is going to win is the one that does its homework the best by studying its opponents. This also applies to life.
-Imran Khan

You have got to pay attention, you have got to study, and you have to do your homework. You have to score higher than everybody else. Otherwise, there is always somebody there waiting to take your place.
-Daisy Fuentes

Play is under attack in our nation's schools - and shrinking breaks are only part of the problem. Homework is increasing. Cities are building new schools without playgrounds. Safety concerns are prompting bans of tag, football, and even running in the playground.
-Darell Hammond

19th March 2018
What's going on this week?



Recent research from the educational charity, the Varkey Foundation, has shown that parents in the UK spend less time helping with homework and school projects than those in almost any other country. They questioned more than 30,000 of children aged between the ages of 4 and 10

Things to talk about at home...

- 🍎 Should parents help with homework? Is it fair if some pupils get more help than others?
- 🍎 Should reading be described as homework?
- 🍎 What do you think the benefits would be if homework was banned from your school? What do you think would be the disadvantages?
- 🍎 Do you think you should always have to do homework at home?
- 🍎 Do you think children today have more homework to complete than other generations? Why do you think this might be the case?

What's going on this week?

Recent research from the educational charity, the Varkey Foundation, has shown that parents in the UK spend less time helping with homework and school projects than those in almost any other country. They questioned more than 30,000 children aged between 4 and 18.

Main question: Is homework worthwhile?

Listen, think, share

- Look at the poster and talk about the little boy completing homework in the picture. Do you think homework should always be completed at home? Talk about why you think he might have been completing it on a train.
- Talk about what homework is. Is homework reading books, learning spellings or tables? Discuss that usually, homework is anything that we are asked to do in our own time that should help with our learning at school.
- Explain that homework has recently featured in the news because parents in the UK spend the least amount of time compared with most other countries in the world. Can we think of any reasons why this might be the case? How long do we spend with our own families completing homework?
- Read through Norfolk headteacher Chris Aitken's thoughts about homework and why he decided to replace homework in its current form with the 'Choose' list at the schools he leads (see assembly resource). Do you think it was a good idea? What do you think are the benefits and the disadvantages to replacing traditional homework? Looking at the activities list, which do you think might work well as alternatives to traditional homework?
- Talk about if you think homework should always be fun? Should we always enjoy everything we do to make it important? Can we think of anything that is necessary to practice after school to help our learning? E.g. reading.

Reflection

Schools are all different in how they present our continued learning outside the classroom. However we are asked to develop our learning, it's usually well thought out to help us become better learners!

KS1 Focus

Question: What is homework?

Listen, think, share

- Talk about the learning we do outside of school. Things like practising counting or reading books. Explain that these can all be classed as homework.
- Why do we think we are given homework to do? Talk about things like to help practice skills we've learnt in school.
- Can we think of other examples where we may have been asked to write about something, draw or take photos? How might these activities help to extend our learning when we are back at school?
- Explain that although it's called 'homework' we use it to describe all learning that we're asked to continue outside of school by our teachers – so the learning might be very different and fun!
- Look at the different types of homework from the KS1 resource. Talk about if we are surprised to see any of the examples given as a task to do in our own time.
- Talk through how and why homework might change as we get older. When we first start school, what does homework often look like? Reading books, maybe practising counting? Then, it often becomes more writing based but we still may need to learn facts too!

Reflection

Homework is extended learning that we can do outside of school, often with our parents to help us. It can be a great opportunity to practice things like reading and counting but also to learn more about our world!

KS2 Focus

Question: Should parents help with homework?

Listen, think, share

- Discuss how we feel and think about homework. Make a list of some of the words that we think of when we are given or asked to complete homework. Discuss the positives and negatives of having homework.
- Read through the different quotes and opinions about homework from the KS2 resource. Sort into those who are supportive of homework and those who aren't. Are there any who overlap?
- Do we think that some homework is more useful than other types? E.g. learning to read, learning to count etc.
- When we complete our homework, how much help do we get from our parents? Do you think you will receive less or more help as you get older? Why? When work is completed at home, it's hard for teachers to know how much help has been given by parents. Does this make it unfair?
- Do you think the reason why a lot of homework is given, is so you can practice and go over things you've learnt with family to help you?

Reflection

All homework is different - some of it we may prefer to do on our own whereas other activities, like projects, we may prefer to do with friends. What's important is that it should always be helping us learn, grow and progress without causing lots of stress!



Picture News

KS2 Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: The great homework debate! Ask the children to think of points for and against having homework. Use these points to create a piece of persuasive writing e.g. a persuasive letter, argument or speech. Focus on persuasive devices used in writing. If time, children could present their work or have your own class debate.

Maths: Give the children a copy of objectives linked to the number section for your year group (if you don't have these use the NC document). Ask the children to create a homework that will help others practise these objectives. Select some of them to be sent home or completed in class.

History: Compare what education and school is like now to education and school in the period of history you are currently studying. Were children educated at all? If not, what was life like for a child living during this period of time?

Computing: Use a program your children are familiar with to create a homework quiz. This could be linked to a topic you are currently learning about or just a general knowledge quiz. If possible, allow children to complete these quizzes at home by sharing them on your learning platform.

DT: Ask the children to design something to help motivate children to complete their homework. This could be a reward system, a mascot, a special writing tool etc. If possible, you might be able to make your designs and try them out at home!



Picture News

KS1 Cross-Curricular Ideas

English: Ask the children to imagine they have forgotten their homework. Discuss a number of excuses they might make e.g. I don't have my homework because my fluffy, small dog ate it, I don't have my homework because the wild wind blew it away on my way to school. Ask the children to record their own excuse in a full sentence.

Maths: Use this opportunity to explore some of the maths games children could use to practise skills at home. Depending on your cohort, allow time to explore computer programmes or show them how to practise tables, number bonds, reading and writing numbers etc. using dice, cards. Set them a homework task to continue practising these skills!

Role-play: Create a school corner. Children could explore the different roles adults in school have; headteacher, teacher, caretaker, dinner lady etc. Ask them to display any learning from home, which has taken place during the week, in this area.

Art: Ask the children how they feel about homework such as reading. Do they enjoy reading to an adult at home? Does it make them feel tired, angry, sad or happy and comfortable? Think about the colours linked with different emotions. Ask them to create a picture to show how they feel about homework.

Geography: Explain that schools all have different views on homework, even schools close by. Look at a map of your local area. Ask the children to locate your school, the nearest school to you and explore what else is in your local area.



Picture News

This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story
<http://bbc.in/2IhDIVI>

This Week's Useful Videos

School boy launches campaign to ban homework
<http://bit.ly/2FMrA0Q>

Newsround: Homework debate
www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/38383428

Will flying cars become a reality?

A Dutch company called Pal-V has just launched its first flying car!

It's a three-wheeled design, which it says can offer sporty performance on the road then take to the air using a set of extendable rotors.

In flying terms, it is what's known as an auto-gyro, or gyrocopter. The car itself, is called the Liberty and can be purchased for around £250,000. Liberty can get up to speeds of 99 miles per hour on the road and the helicopter needs a large space to land and take off.



Pictured: An early design for a similar gyrocopter.

Burger-flipping robot!



Pictured: Flippy the robot.

Flippy, a robot who has been trained to flip burgers at a burger restaurant in Pasadena, California to replace human cooks. The restaurant, Cali Burger, said it was also working with staff to show them the best way to prepare and place the burgers to ensure Flippy works as fast as possible. Anthony Lomelino, head of technology at Cali Burger, said that kitchen staff needed to learn which movements work best for Flippy to work. Many workers in fast-food restaurants don't stay in the same job for long, meaning often a lot of time and money is spent training people only to have them leave after a few months. It is thought that Flippy will be a more consistent worker!

Class sizes are increasing



Pictured: A typical classroom.

Two-thirds of secondary schools in England have increased the size of their classes in the past two years, official figures have shown. The analysis, by education unions, suggests the five areas with the fullest classes have all seen increases between 2014-15 and 2016-17. In some areas, such as York, secondaries have had average rises of three more students per class, it said.

Are classes getting bigger in your school? Do you think it affects your learning?

Test trips to Mars from next year!



Pictured: A model of what the surface of Mars looks like.

Elon Musk, the founder of payment company PayPal and car company Tesla has set a new goal – to test flights of his Mars spaceship from as early as next year! He has said at a recent event in Texas, "I think we'll be able to do short flights, up and down flights, sometime in the first half of next year".

If there were a group of people living in Mars, he has said it would reduce the chance of an extended new Dark Age if a nuclear conflict was to wipe out life on Earth. Mr Musk said he was excited about the potential and added, "Mars will need pizza joints, and one day people will drink at a Mars Bar," he joked.