

## **Homework Policy October 2023**

### **How often is homework given?**

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Homework is for children to do at home
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given “homework off” as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.

### **What is the content of homework?**

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks, written tasks and wellbeing/active tasks.
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be “learned by heart”, drawing/colouring, recorder, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- Children often feel that reading and “learning by heart” is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is of a high standard.

As a parent you need to be fully familiar with this policy, so as to manage the time allocated at home for your child. In general the following guidelines apply:

- Junior/Senior infants: 10 minutes per day
- First/Second class: 20-30 minutes
- Third/Fourth class: 30-40 minutes
- Fifth/Sixth class: 40-60 minutes

It must be stressed that these are **suggested** target times. In practice, **the time taken will depend on the individual child.**

### **How can Parents help ?**

You should set aside a time each day for homework, taking into account other needs such as recreation and family circumstances.

As a parent, you have a really important role to play in :

- Encouraging your child's work.
- Observing their work.
- Ensuring that your child has a quiet environment to work in. The television or other distractions should not be taking place during the time allocated to homework
- Making sure your child has all the necessary equipment e.g. pens, pencils, eraser, sharpener etc.

- Being nearby in case of questions; don't take over
- Being consistent.
- Discuss, monitor, check and sign homework journal and/or reading sheet every night.

### **What should I do if there is a problem with my child's homework ?**

We rely on parents to decide if a child is experiencing difficulty or when the child has spent enough time on their homework.

A short note in the homework journal will suffice to indicate that a genuine effort was made.

Always communicate with the class teacher if your child is experiencing **persistent difficulty** with their homework.

If there is a change in home circumstances, such as a new baby, illness of a parent or any other reason, you should inform your child's teacher. This will assist both the teacher and your child.

Your child will make mistakes. Encourage them to find and correct their own mistakes. Children must be able to accept that making mistakes is part of the learning process and it is important that they can go back and try a different method or approach.

| <b>Subject</b>   | <b>Infants</b>                                     | <b>1<sup>st</sup> + 2<sup>nd</sup></b>                         | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> + 4<sup>th</sup></b>                                   | <b>5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup></b>                                   |
|------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Reading</b>   | Sight words<br>Wordwall<br>Books ( Sails +<br>ORT) | ORT<br>Wordwall  | ORT<br>Individual/Own<br>books/Library<br>Novel                          | Individual/Own<br>books/Library<br>Novel                                 |
| <b>Gaeilge</b>   | N/A  | Léitheoireacht   | Léitheoireacht   | Léitheoireacht   |
| <b>Maths</b>     | Busy at Maths                                      | Tables   | Tables   | Tables   |
| <b>Written</b>   | Phonics Copy<br>Maths book                         | Master your<br>Maths<br>Grow in Love<br>Starlight<br>Sentences | Master Your<br>Maths<br>Just Maps<br>New Wave<br>English<br>Project Work | Master Your<br>Maths<br>Just Maps<br>New Wave<br>English<br>Project Work |
| <b>Spellings</b> | N/A  | Spellings Made<br>Easy   | Spellings Made<br>Easy   | Spellings Made<br>Easy   |

|             |              |          |                           |                           |
|-------------|--------------|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|             |              |          | Deachtú                   | Deachtú                   |
| <b>Oral</b> | Grow in Love | Talktime | Talktime/ Word of the Day | Talktime/ Word of the Day |

- No homework to be given until **after** the first full week of school in September.
- Teachers may designate homework according to theme week e.g Maths Week (Oct), Science Week (Nov), Seachtain na Gaeilge (Mar), Engineering Week (Mar), Active Schools Week (May) World Book Day etc. instead of usual written homework. This homework should be 'novelty / fun' homework i.e. not from usual maths book etc. Children should still receive Reading, Tables and Spellings these weeks.
- Differentiation should occur in all classes.
- Teachers in same class levels should be in consultation with each other to ensure homework is similar. (especially if there are twins in different classes)
- If project homework is given, it should replace any written homework for that duration.
- Recorder homework to be given two nights a week for approximately 5 minutes.
- **No written** homework for month of **June**.

**2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> – no more than 2 pieces of written homework per night.**

**5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> – no more than 3 pieces of written homework per night.**

\*Maths is included in Written homework.

### Sample Homework Grid for December.

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| Play a card game  | Make the shopping list for mum or dad    | Go for a walk looking at Christmas lights | Make a jigsaw                             |
| Find out 3 Christmas traditions from elsewhere in the world | Read with your younger brother or sister | Tidy the playroom                         | Help prepare the dinner                   |
| Make a Christmas Card                                       | Learn to tie shoelaces                   | Play a game of snakes + ladders           | Measure the ingredients for baking a cake |

|  |                             |  |  |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Spend time doing any sporting activity you like e.g. swimming, camogie, football | Learn 3 things about Dublin | Create your Family Tree going back to great grandparents | Contact a grandparent or elderly relative / family friend and ask them about Christmas when they were a child. |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|

### Another Sample Homework Grid

|  |  |                                   |                                      |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Play a board game                                | Make a home made present for someone     | Read a story together as a family | Learn a new Christmas song           |
| Make a decoration for your Christmas tree        | Read with your younger brother or sister | Sort your socks                   | Make a jigsaw                        |
| Learn a joke to tell the class the following day | Pick an old toy and donate to charity    | Make a shopping list              | Make up an indoor PE circuit at home |

|                     |  |                                |   |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Make your own lunch | Learn how to turn on the washing machine | Try a new exercise (Joe Wicks) | Draw a map showing the route you take to school |
|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|

### Another sample homework grid

|   |                                      |                                      |   |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Create a shopping list for a birthday party | How many ways can you set your table | Make up a new game with a ball       | Create a board game using Maths (+, x, -, ) |
| Ask an older relative to tell you a story   | Join Lucan Library                   | Design your ideal playroom / bedroom | Go on a nature walk                         |
| Memorise a parent's mobile phone number     | Learn a riddle                       | Draw a map of your house             | Plant a bulb                                |



|   |                     |   |   |
|---|---------------------|---|---|
| <p>Fire safety at home; identify smoke alarm, carbon monoxide alarm. Are there fire blankets or extinguishers</p> | <p>Sort laundry</p> | <p>Eat your 5-a-day (fruit or vegetables)</p> | <p>Smile at three people after school</p> |
|---|---------------------|---|---|