

Research evidence shows that homework does have a positive effect on learning.

**“Where children were set homework, were encouraged by parents to do it and had it regularly marked in school there was a steady and consistent association between that and the level of performance”**

(Research carried out by Jordanhill College of Education)

We recognise that children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school.

**HOMEWORK HELPS CHILDREN:**

- Practise and consolidate work done in class
- Prepare for future class work
- Work independently
- Take more responsibility for their own learning
- Develop good habits of study and self-discipline
- Plan and organise time
- Access resources not available in school

**FEATURES OF HOMEWORK TASKS**

We set a variety of homework activities. The content of the task may vary from stage to stage and at different times throughout a session but should always be:

- Clearly understood by the pupil and closely related to on-going class work
- At an appropriate level of ability for the child
- Able to be completed without specialised resources
- Reflect a variety of activities
- Marked promptly with some feedback given

Parents are encouraged to discuss homework tasks with class teachers should any problems arise.

**AT THE EARLY STAGES** typical tasks will be:

- Discussion using reading books
- Reinforcing new words - often using a game

- Practising pages of reading
- Reinforcing sounds perhaps using a worksheet
- Practising writing
- Simple maths activities
- Finding out something or bringing in items for a class activity
- Spelling
- Choice reader and accompanying activities
- Preparing a very brief presentation/talk

**AT MIDDLE STAGES** typical tasks will be:

- Reading practice
- Spelling
- Maths e.g. tables, telling time
- Research e.g. gathering information for class project
- Preparing for individual talks and presentations

**AT UPPER STAGES** typical tasks will be:

- A variety of follow up work in all curricular areas, including topic related and current affairs research, book reviews, spelling, preparation for an individual presentation/talk, reading and maths

**SPELLING** - at all stages we use the **LOOK COVER WRITE CHECK** method. The child looks at the word carefully, covers it up and tries to write it from memory, then checks to see if it's correct.

**READING** - we provide a homework diary which will detail homework tasks and a reading record for tracking progress.

If a child has not made a reasonable effort in class during the day, it is likely that unfinished work will be sent home in addition. Extra work may also be given, with the parent's agreement if a child has been ill or off school for some time and is anxious to catch up.

## **FREQUENCY AND LENGTH OF TASK**

We recognise the fact that many of our pupils are involved in activities in the evening which are valuable to their education and overall development and well-being and, while homework is important, it should not prevent children from taking part in out-of-school activities. We have organised homework so that it is sent home in a pack at the start of the week and we suggest that it is done in shorter bursts spread over the week. The homework diary details the weekly expectation of tasks.

## **PARENTS SUPPORTING HOMEWORK**

With support and encouragement children find it easier to get into the homework habit and we value your help in the following:

- Ensuring homework is done while your child is alert
- Trying to provide a calm atmosphere with as few distractions as possible
- Discussing the work with your child and working along with him/her, especially at the early stages
- Checking that the quality and presentation is of an acceptable standard, doing this personally and not delegating to older brothers and sisters
- Discussing any problems arising from homework with the teacher, please can this be done by appointment
- Extending the work when appropriate perhaps by supplying a relevant book, visiting the library or a place of interest connected with the work

## **ABOVE ALL BY SHOWING INTEREST AND PRAISING GOOD EFFORTS**

- ❖ Teachers would appreciate if homework jotters were kept in a clean and tidy condition i.e. no graffiti, food or drink stains.

We consider homework to be important and therefore expect it to be taken seriously by the pupils. The reasons for giving homework and our expectations of standards and presentation will have been fully discussed with the children by the class teacher.

We understand that home circumstances may make it impossible for work to be done occasionally. If this should arise please could parents/carers phone or write a brief explanation to the teacher - thank-you

If a pupil should fail to do work set without having a reasonable excuse or produce work which isn't of an acceptable standard, the following steps will be taken:

- ❖ Teacher will emphasise why the work is being set and may offer another chance to complete it at home
- ❖ Pupil will be kept in at break time/lunchtime to do it
- ❖ Pupil might have to miss an extra-curricular or class activity
- ❖ If incidents are frequent the head teacher will become involved. Parents will be informed and asked to support the school by seeing that the work is done regularly
- ❖ A note may be made on pupil records which will go with the child to his/her next school.

We hope to have your full co-operation as parents in supporting your child's learning whether at home or school.

Parents are given an opportunity to receive a copy of this policy. If parents have any problems or questions about homework they should contact their child's teacher or the head teacher.

### **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

The homework policy is reviewed through our school improvement planning taking account of pupil, parent and staff concerns. Homework is monitored throughout the year by the suggestions.