

LISNAGELVIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is a partnership between parents and school. It is an integral part of the learning process and should reinforce work that is on-going in the classroom, particularly improving literacy, numeracy and recall skills.

Homework should be seen as an extension of the classroom work and should nurture the discipline of completing a set task. It helps with the constant repetition and reinforcement which spellings and tables require. It will be matched to each child's ability enabling him/her to progress and achieve his/her potential.

We hope all parents will take a keen interest in their children's homework, supporting and encouraging them but also giving them the independence to work by themselves. Being involved in the homework process should help raise parents' awareness of their children's strengths and weaknesses. Equal importance should be given to reading, learning of tables and spellings as well as written work. Written homework should be neatly presented. All homeworks, reading notebooks and tests must be signed by the parent/guardian. A homework routine should be established in a quiet atmosphere without the distraction of television or computer games.

If any child has severe difficulty completing homework tasks, the parent should inform the class teacher and, if need be, discuss the matter.

FOUNDATION STAGE:

Primary One children will bring home a shared reading bag on Monday (to be returned Wednesday morning) and Wednesday (to be returned Friday morning) containing two books – one to be read each evening. Please refer to explanation sheet in the shared reading bags on how to support your child with shared reading.

Children are given the opportunity to choose a weekly library book, brought home on Fridays and returned to school on Monday mornings. These are for parents and children to enjoy together over the weekend.

Home activities will be given regularly after half term, so that parents can be involved with their children's learning. These will include practising physical skills and literacy or numeracy activities. Guided reading will begin for some children when they reach a stage of readiness.

Primary Two children will bring two shared reading books on Mondays, to be returned on Thursdays. Guided reading continues as in P1 and every child will be involved when they reach a stage of readiness. Guided Reading will be sent home on Tuesday for Wednesday and on Thursday for Friday.

Home learning starts in October, based on literacy/numeracy activities. This is sent home on Mondays in the shared reading bags and returned on Thursdays. This is extended to two activities per week in January.

In P2, children are involved in a parent/child numeracy and literacy games programme. This is explained to parents at the P2 curriculum meeting early in the Autumn Term.

In the first term, numeracy bags are sent home and in the second and third terms, children will have the opportunity to play the literacy games.

Children are given the opportunity to choose a weekly library book, brought home on Fridays and returned to school on Monday mornings. These are for parents and children to enjoy together over the weekend.

LEARNING SUPPORT CLASS:

The children in the learning support class will receive individual homework according to their needs. These will be discussed with the parents by the class teacher.

KEY STAGE ONE:

In **Primary Three** guided reading is prepared on each weeknight (Monday-Thursday). No formal reading is set at the weekends. In reading preparation, children should write out new words and discuss the text as well as reading aloud to their parent/guardian. Library books and shared reading books will be changed each Friday to extend the reading experience.

From the end of September, children will learn spellings and tables on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and revise the week's work on Thursday evening for a test in school on Friday. Common spelling patterns are taught in school each week. A notebook is provided for children to practise spellings and table facts. Test and reading notebooks should be signed by parents/guardians on a regular basis.

Children will receive "Home Learning" activity bags each week from October. These contain practical tasks, numeracy and literacy games and some written activities to consolidate work covered in school. Full instructions accompany each game and task.

Home learning is more enjoyable when tasks are completed one at a time throughout the week.

Parents should note that extra time may be required for Thursday revision of spellings and tables.

In **Primary Four**, guided reading is set for each week night. Parents should refer to the information sheet 'How to help your child with reading.'

Spellings and tables will be set on three nights (Monday – Wednesday) with a revision night on Thursday to prepare for a test in school on Friday.

Written homework will be set twice weekly through September, increasing to four nights per week thereafter. No written homework is set at the weekend. Written homework will generally alternate between Literacy and Numeracy but on occasions will be set to follow up and support other areas of the curriculum eg history, geography, science and music.

To extend the reading experience, P4 children are encouraged to always have a school library book in their schoolbag. These can be changed regularly and independently.

Parents are requested to sign all homework.

Time suggested: 30 minutes.

KEY STAGE TWO:

Primary Five, Six and Seven

Homework will be set every day and will consist of the following:-

LEARNING Spellings and Table/Mathematical facts ('Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method to be used by the child when learning spellings).

READING Guided reading (group work) and Independent reading including library books.

WRITTEN Literacy, Numeracy, World Around Us

Numeracy homeworks must be completed in pencil and Literacy homeworks in pencil (P5) and in ink (P6 and P7). No written homework will be set at weekends. Occasionally children will be asked to memorise poetry or words for choir/class assembly or concerts and these may replace written homework. Children may be given work involving research and planning to be completed over a two night period.

Parents are requested to sign all homework.

The following table is a guide to the approximate time that should be spent on the various aspects of homework for each year group. Times given for learning aspects are guarded as a minimum.

	Primary 5	Primary 6	Primary 7
Spellings	10 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes
Table/Maths Fact	10 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes
Reading	15 minutes	15 minutes	15 minutes
Written Work	25 minutes	25 minutes	25 minutes

If at any time your child is having difficulty or is greatly exceeding the suggested timings on a task, please indicate this to the teacher when you are signing the homework.

We appreciate that in some instances this may mean returning an unfinished piece of work despite consistent effort by your child and guidance from you, the parent/guardian.

The policy will be reviewed again in August 2015.

C Torrens
Principal