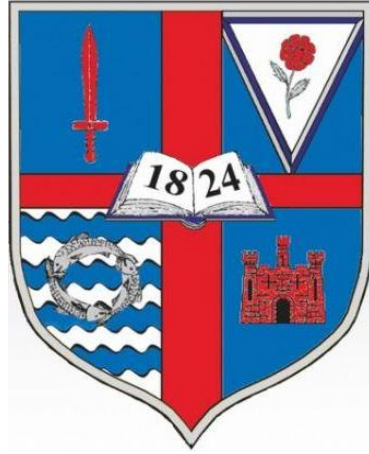
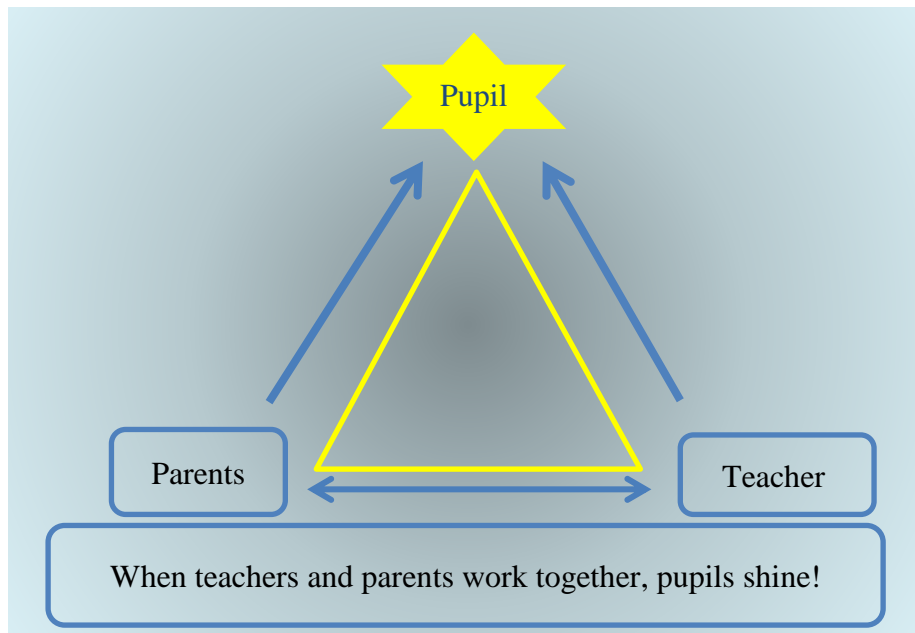


Macosquin Primary School



HOMEWORK POLICY



'Together as a school family, we are committed to nurturing and motivating our children, enabling them to reach their full potential and shine- today and in the years ahead!'



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1. Rationale:

We believe that homework supports, extends and consolidates the learning covered in the classroom while supporting pupils to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning. It is our policy to mark and provide positive and helpful feedback for homework that is satisfactorily completed and handed in on the appropriate day. It is our aim and ethos at Macosquin Primary to work with parents and should there be any concerns about your child completing homework, please contact the class teacher who will cater the homework to suit your child's needs. We hope and trust parents and carers will be willing to provide active and continuous support to ensure that homework is done conscientiously and to the best of the child's ability. We are also mindful of the well-being of our children and the need to encourage children to spend time pursuing out-of-school activities and hobbies.

2. Aims and Objectives

- To provide opportunities for the practice, application and consolidation of work done in school (particularly in Literacy and Numeracy).
- To raise achievement of pupils learning.
- To promote co-operation and develop an effective partnership between home and school in supporting each pupil's learning.
- To ensure teachers, parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations of themselves and pupils.
- To help pupils develop good work habits, self-discipline and skills of independence for the future.

3. The Main Purpose of Homework

- ✓ To encourage pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation to study independently at home.
- ✓ To consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed at school.
- ✓ To extend pupils' reading skills, building a wider vocabulary of words and knowledge of the world.
- ✓ To enhance phonological awareness and consolidate spellings of high frequency words through motivating spelling tasks (particularly in Foundation stage and Key Stage One).
- ✓ To extend or prepare for school learning through activities such as research and additional reading.
- ✓ To develop and sustain the involvement of parents in the management of their child's learning and to keep them informed about the work and progress their child is achieving.
- ✓ To explore and learn to use resources for learning at home such as libraries, the internet, adult knowledge and newspapers to find information about a subject.
- ✓ To maintain good networks of communication between home and school.
- ✓ To offer pupils the opportunity to extend their learning by including optional, additional challenges or open ended questions.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers' Responsibilities:

- Teachers incorporate homework into their weekly planning and ensure that the tasks are differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
- Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear learning objectives and instructions for homework tasks, as well as clear examples of work to guide both pupils and adults.
- The amount and level of homework is tailored according to the pupil's age and ability.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- As pupils progress through the school, the amount of homework will increase in line with this policy.
- High expectations for neat presentation are in place to ensure that pupils maintain a similar high standard of work at home as in school.

Pupils' Responsibilities:

- To take responsibility for taking home the correct homework; appropriate books, sheets and materials needed.
- To complete work as instructed and present it neatly.
- To hand work in on time.

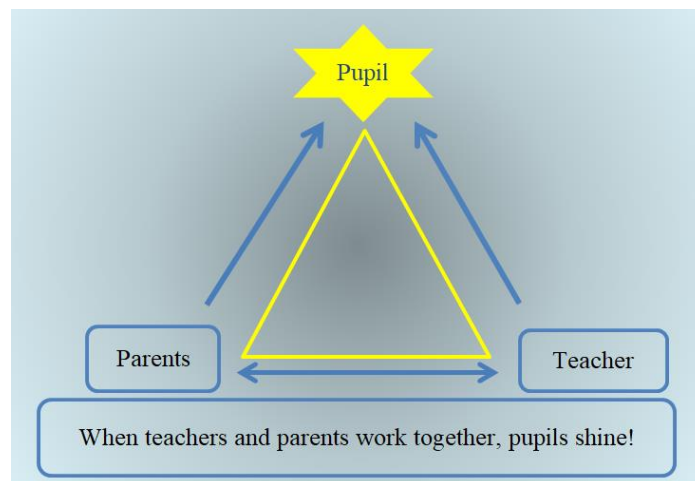
Parents' Responsibilities

- To support the home school agreement for learning.
- To support their child in developing good time management skills and helping them ensure deadlines are met.
- To ensure their child understands what he/she is doing and offer support where necessary – homework should not require substantial parent intervention, if it does, please see the class teacher.
- To inform the teacher if there are persistent difficulties when completing homework.
- Providing a suitable place in which your child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support.
- Making it clear to your child that you value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning.
- Checking your child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.
- Encouraging your child and praising them when they have completed work set.
- Signing and dating your child's completed homework to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts.
- Ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time.

Additionally, you can support your child's development by:

- Visits to libraries, museums etc.;
- Cooking with them;

- Taking your child swimming;
- Playing games, e.g. board games, cards, ball games;
- Watching informative TV programmes together;
- Providing opportunities for craft activities, e.g. cutting, sticking, sewing, painting etc.;
- Gardening and growing plants;
- Using the internet to research something with your child (following guidelines for safe internet use);
- Attending any school workshops that may be on offer designed to enable parents/ carers to support their child's learning at home; and
- Talking to your child about schoolwork, their day, what they have been learning about and how they have been learning.



5. Special Educational Needs

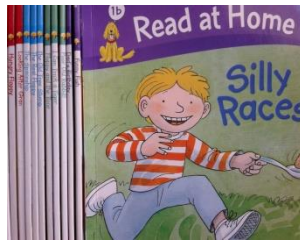
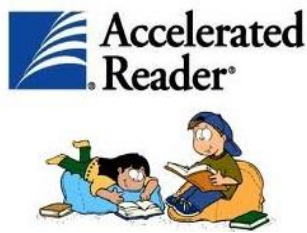
We set homework for all pupils as a normal part of school life. We ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the child. If a pupil has special needs, we endeavour to adapt any task set so that all children can contribute in a positive way. Setting a suitable type and amount of homework for pupils with special educational needs will need careful consideration by the class teacher and co-ordination with both the SENCo and parents. The objectives of homework outlined in this policy should apply equally to pupils with special educational needs. Whilst pupils with SEN may benefit from separate tasks from the homework set for other children in the class, it is important that they should do as much in common with the other children as possible. Homework tasks for children with SEN should:

- Have a clear, explicit focus and time-guideline;
- Give plenty of opportunities for pupils to succeed;
- Help develop social as well as other skills where necessary;
- Be varied tasks and not purely written assignments; and
- Be manageable for teachers.

6. Homework Guidelines

Pupil's Spelling and Number Journals are to be signed by parents / carers daily (Primary 3-7) after pupils have completed and checked their work.

Junior school will receive a weekly homework note on Seesaw to outline the tasks to complete.



We believe a fundamental part of homework is regular reading. Suggested reading times are 5-10 minutes in Reception/Primary 1, increasing to at least 30 minutes by Primary 6 and 7. There is an expectation that reading at home will happen daily (5 times a week minimum). It is important for parents/ carers to read with children and to discuss books, pictures and stories, even when they are in Primary 7 to assist their understanding and develop a love of reading.

The nature and content of homework set, and the amount of time needed to complete homework will vary from year to year and from pupil to pupil, please see the table below. Regular patterns and routines will be established in each class for homework, which will be made clear to parents at an appropriate time (start of the year/ parent meeting etc.).

Homework will normally be given from Monday to Thursday every week, however, there are exceptions at certain times of the year; these being agreed in advance by the school leadership team.

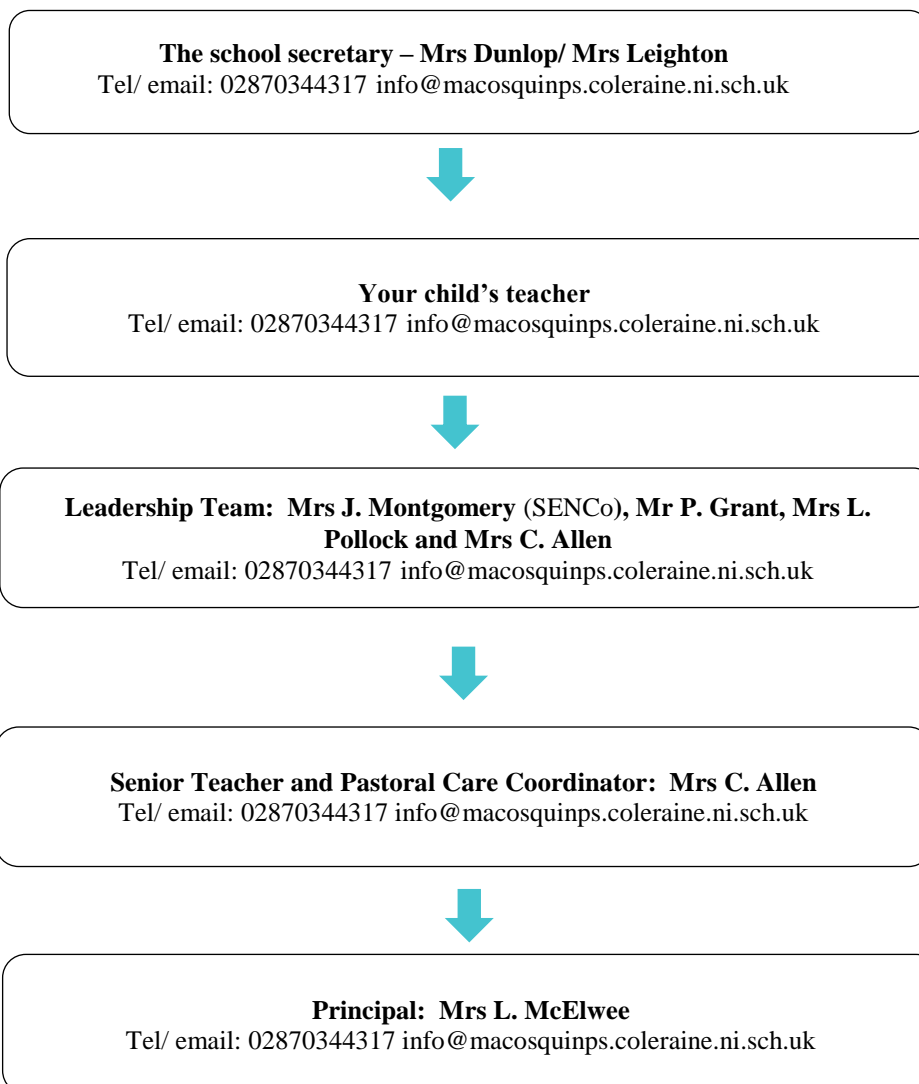
When a pupil is off for a period of time due to illness, parents may obtain homework from the class teacher on request, which can be sent via Seesaw or Google Classroom. Alternatively, if able the pupil should continue with spellings, reading and tables while at home as this will ensure continuity. Pupils are not encouraged to go on holiday during term time. Those who do will only be provided with homework planned for the days the pupil attends school.

Children who are sitting the transfer test will be given weekend homework, it is essential that this is completed.








Incomplete or homework completed unsatisfactorily, will be returned as soon as possible by the teacher for completion or correction at home. A failure to complete homework will require parents being contacted via Seesaw and the homework completed at home the following night.

Teachers at Macosquin are more than happy to support parents with any concerns they may have with completing homework. Parents are welcome to contact teachers in line with the communication chart by telephone or by email.

Communication Chart



The table below shows a basic outline of homework for each year group.

Class	Approximate Time	Homework
P1	10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Daily: Phonics and number practice, related to their sound/number of the day or week (from September onwards)  Reading and blending words (from November onwards)  Tricky words (from December onwards)  2 practical/ written homeworks- Literacy/ Numeracy/ PATHS/ WAU from mid-September (to be completed by the end of the week)
P2	15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Daily: Phonics and number practice, related to their sound/number of the day or week, Bug Club or guided reading book  2 practical/ written homeworks- Literacy/ Numeracy/ PATHS/ WAU Term 1 increasing to 3 written homeworks per week in Term 2 & 3  Thursday: Revise spellings and number facts for Friday Check from Jan/Feb

P3	15-20 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Daily: Spelling and Number Facts Journal, blending words, Bug Club or guided reading book ✚ Monday- Wednesday: 3 written homeworks-Literacy/ Numeracy/ PATHS/ WAU homeworks per week ✚ Thursday: Revise spellings and number facts for Friday Check
P4	20 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Daily: Spelling and Number Facts Journal, Bug Club or guided reading book ✚ Monday-Wednesday: 3 Literacy, Numeracy or WAU homeworks per week (written or on Google Classroom) ✚ Thursday: Revise spellings and number facts for Friday Check
P5	25 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Daily: Spelling and Number Facts Journal, Accelerated Reading ✚ Monday-Wednesday: 3 Literacy, Numeracy or WAU homeworks per week (written or on Google Classroom) ✚ Thursday: 10 minutes on Mathletics and revise spellings and number facts for Friday test
P6	30 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Daily: Spelling and Number Facts Journal, Accelerated Reading ✚ Monday-Wednesday: 3 written homeworks -Literacy, Numeracy or WAU (written or on Google Classroom) ✚ Thursday: 15 minutes on Mathletics and revise spellings and number facts for Friday test ✚ Weekend homework for transfer preparation work
P7	35-45 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Daily: Spelling and Number Facts Journal, Accelerated Reading ✚ Monday-Wednesday: 3 Literacy, Numeracy or WAU homeworks per week (written or on Google Classroom) ✚ Thursday: 15-20 minutes on Mathletics and revise spellings and number facts for Friday test ✚ Transfer Preparation Work for all children who will be ultimately transferring to another school at end of year.

7. Evaluating and Updating the Homework Scheme

The scheme is reviewed annually in June by staff and shared with the leadership team. Homework Planning is then updated ready for the new school year in September.