

# Gaelscoil Neachtain



## Polasaí Obair Bhaile

Gaelscoil Neachtain's Homework Policy has been developed by the whole staff in consultation with parents and pupils and has been ratified by the Board of Governors.

### **What is homework?**

At Gaelscoil Neachtain we define homework as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside school time, either on their own or with parental support. Homework presents an excellent opportunity for parents to become active partners in supporting learning.

### **Aims of this policy**

- To ensure a consistent approach to homework throughout the Gaelscoil.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children have a clear understanding regarding expectations for homework.
- To ensure that teachers, parents and children are fully aware of the role they play with regard to homework.

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

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- To act as a means of assessment of previous learning in class.
- To provide opportunities for parents and children to work together.
- To allow parents to gain an understanding of what children are learning in school.
- To allow children to work independently and to develop responsibility for their work.
- Facilitates the development of an effective partnership between teachers, parents and children.
- Facilitates the means of developing research skills and the use of resources which exist beyond the school environment.

Children in Ranganna 1 – 2 have a reading record book. Children in Ranganna 3 – 7 have a homework diary. Both books play a key role in home/school communication. Both parents and teachers should use reading record book and homework diary to keep a track of homework and also to send reminders. They should be taken home each night and brought in each day. Children in Ranganna 1 – 4 have a homework folder to keep all homework materials. **Care should be taken with folders –each child is given one folder for the year.**

### **What is the role of the school?**

- To provide parents with a clear policy regarding homework.
- To ensure this policy is fully and consistently followed.
- To provide support for parents with information about homework.
- To provide support for children with the running of a homework club.
- To provide Parents Workshops at least once a term to support their understanding of children's work.

### **Role of the Class Teacher**

- To provide clear instructions in Irish and English for completion of homework.
- To set homework that enables all children to be able to access and complete.
- To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to learning in class.
- To give feedback to pupils.
- To provide a clear model of how to complete the homework.
- To ensure all children understand the homework they have been given.
- To inform parents if there is a problem regarding homework.
- To be available, if necessary, to talk to parents and children about homework.
- PLEASE NOTE: Teachers can only reply to messages from parents between teaching hours only: 8am to 4pm.

**Class work and/or homework will not be provided for children who are taken out of school to go on holiday during term time. Parents / carers will, however, be encouraged to read to their children daily and to practise quick recall of Maths facts.**

**Parents are asked NOT to request school work if a child is at home sick.**

### **Role of Parents/Carers**

- To ensure the child completes homework to a high standard and hands it in on time.
- To sign the homework diary each night.

- To be actively involved, and support their child with homework tasks, as appropriate.
- To ensure all materials, including reading books, are returned to school every day.
- To ensure good care is taken with all homework materials including books.
- To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out his/her homework.
- To read a wide range of books with their children.
- To encourage their children to do their best at all times and develop a growth mind set.
- To encourage and praise their child when they have completed his/her homework.
- Encourage your child to check over his/her work.
- To make every effort to attend Parents Workshops.

**Parents/carers who have enquiries or concerns about homework should not hesitate to contact their child's class teacher, via Class Dojo initially. If concerns persist, parents /carers should make an appointment to see the Principal.**

### **Role of the Pupil**

- To ensure they have everything they need to complete homework.
- To make sure they understand the tasks that have been set.
- To make the time to complete homework.
- To hand in completed homework on time.
- To put in the same level of effort as would be expected of class work.
- To discuss difficulties with their parents and teachers.
- To take on board any feedback about homework for future learning.

### **Homework Tasks**

Written homework is based on work already covered in school. All written homework should be neatly presented and be of a similar standard to that acceptable in school.

Some homework may not be written. Pupils may be required to research topics or bring in items for class discussions or investigations e.g. cuttings from magazines, photographs etc.

As your children progresses through the school they are encouraged to work as independently as possible. In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children may require help and assistance but this should lessen as the child matures.

**PLEASE SEE Appendix 1 FOR HOMEWORK SCHEDULE FOR EACH YEAR GROUP.**

**No written homework is given for the weekend. However, children are still advised to read over the weekend and to practise mental maths.**

**No written homework is given in the last week of each half-term. No written homework is given during the week Parent / Teacher meetings take place.**

**Time Spent on Homework:**

It is suggested that the time spent on homework should be:

Rang 1 – 15 - 20 minutes

Rang 2 – 15 - 20 minutes

Rang 3 – 30 minutes

Rang 4 – 30 minutes

Rang 5 – 30 - 45 minutes

Rang 6 – 45 minutes -1hr

Rang 7 – 45 minutes - 1hr

**Why will children sometimes be given extra homework?**

Children who take part in particular learning, e.g. Reading Support, may sometimes be set extra homework to reinforce the particular work being done.

If your child is spending too long on homework, please note this in the Homework Diary and sign.

**If for some reason homework cannot be completed, please provide a brief written explanation in the child's homework book or send a note to the class teacher.**

**IF HOMEWORK IS NOT COMPLETED, THE TEACHER WILL WRITE A NOTE IN THE HOMEWORK DIARY. IF THERE IS A PATTERN OF HOMEWORK NOT BEING COMPLETED, THE CLASS TEACHER WILL CONTACT THE PARENT.**

## **The majority of homework at Gaelscoil Neachtain will concentrate on the following key areas:**

### **Reading**

We believe in reading for enjoyment and encourage parents to build in a nightly reading routine with their children - from Rang 1 right the way through to Rang 7. As a child develops, they will take over most of the reading and WILL read independently. During these times, children should be encouraged to listen to stories, develop confidence with reading, understand what they are reading and read a variety of different books. In addition to reading book, children will be given a topic based library book each week. Gaelscoil Neachtain uses the Accelerated Reading scheme at school for children in Ranganna 4 – 7. This scheme supports the development of children’s reading skills and children enjoy participation very much. Children are also encouraged to access the Accelerated Reading scheme at home.

### **Spelling**

Spelling is also an essential part of homework and is a skill which needs practising - little and often is the key. Encourage your child to learn how to put words into a sentence as well as spell them out loud. Some children find it much easier to learn to spell a word by writing it down - write it once, cover it over, write it again, check with the first and repeat (LOOK, COVER, WRITE, CHECK).

Spellings in Irish will be taught in school as part of our *Fónaic na Gaeilge* programme and spellings in English will be taught in school as part of our *Sounds-Write* programme. The same skills are developed for spelling in Irish and in English.

1. Children in Ranganna 3 – 7 learn spellings. Each day the children participate in sound work – phonics - during class time with reinforcement and related activities for homework.
2. Parents should use the LOOK, COVER, SAY, WRITE, CHECK method to reinforce spellings with their children as above.
3. The class teacher will record how well each child has grasped the spellings in an informal way – games, orally, whiteboard throughout the week.
4. There will be a formal spelling test on Friday which will be sent home for parents to sign.

### **3. Number Bonds**

A copy of all number bonds for each class will be given out to parents. KNOWLEDGE of NUMBER BONDS IS ESSENTIAL for PROGRESS in MATHS.

Number bonds reinforced at home have a positive impact upon the progress made by children.

What are number bonds? e.g. The number bonds to 10 are:  $6+4$ ,  $5+5$ ,  $3+7$ , etc. The number bonds to 15 are:  $7+8$ ,  $6+9$ ,  $10+5$ ,  $2+13$ , etc.

And so on for each number – usually up to 20 is reinforced at home There will be also a formal Mental Maths Test on Friday for children in Ranganna 3 agus 4 which will be sent home for parents to sign.

REMEMBER: KNOWLEDGE of NUMBER BONDS IS ESSENTIAL for PROGRESS in MATHS.

### **Times Tables**

KNOWLEDGE of TIMES TABLES IS ESSENTIAL for PROGRESS in MATHS.

Like spelling, times tables are facts to learn. The same techniques work – practising little and often, writing them down and playing games. The key is to take one table at a time and learn a few facts. Once the facts are remembered, learn them out of order. Race them! Once a table is learnt go on to the next one – but remember reinforcement is the key and children will forget them – and so you will need to revisit them more than once. Each time children revisit, their learning speeds up until the whole table is committed to their memory. Children in Ranganna 5 – 7 have a Maths Facts Booklet.

REMEMBER: KNOWLEDGE of TIMES TABLES IS ESSENTIAL for PROGRESS in MATHS.

### **Mathematics**

This will also be based around what the children will be learning in class. The work could be linked to lessons on shape, measures or handling data. Lots of the activities will be based around number work.

### **Talking and Listening**

We like to make sure that children are given ample opportunity to learn to speak out loud to different audiences – and also to listen to what other children can say and ask questions. Props help. If your child is given a topic to learn about, then encourage them to learn a little about it first and bring in an object or picture to support them. Get them to practise at home first – you could be the audience! By R.5, they may be asked to take part in a debate or learn a poem off-by-heart.

### **Written Homework**

Written homework is based on work already covered in school. Written homework will be given for Irish and English on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Written homework includes the World Around Us area of learning.

Acceptance of admission to the school implies the parents' acceptance of the School's Homework Policy.

This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually.

## Appendix 1

### Homework Schedule

#### Foundation Stage (Rang 1)

<b>An Luan / Monday</b>	<b>An Mháirt / Tuesday</b>	<b>An Chéadaoin / Wednesday</b>	<b>An Déardaoin / Thursday</b>	<b>An Aoine / Friday</b>
Litearthacht/Literacy Léitheoireacht (Reading-*Term 2)	Uimhearthacht (Numeracy) Léitheoireacht (Reading- *Term 2)	Litearthacht/Literacy nó Uimhearthacht (Numeracy)  Léitheoireacht (Reading-*Term 2)	Léitheoireacht (Reading- *Term 2)	

#### Foundation Stage (Rang 2)

<b>An Luan / Monday</b>	<b>An Mháirt / Tuesday</b>	<b>An Chéadaoin / Wednesday</b>	<b>An Déardaoin / Thursday</b>	<b>An Aoine / Friday</b>
Litearthacht/Literacy Léitheoireacht (Reading)	Uimhearthacht (Numeracy) Léitheoireacht (Reading)	Litearthacht/Literacy nó Uimhearthacht (Numeracy)  Léitheoireacht (Reading)	Léitheoireacht (Reading)	

### Key Stage 1 (Rang 3)

<b>An Luan / Monday</b>	<b>An Mháirt / Tuesday</b>	<b>An Chéadaoin / Wednesday</b>	<b>An Déardaoin / Thursday</b>	<b>An Aoine / Friday</b>
Litriú/Spellings Léitheoireacht/Reading Lítearthacht/Literacy work*	Litriú/Spelling Léitheoireacht/Reading Mata-Uimhreas/Maths- Number	Litriú/Spellings Léitheoireacht/Reading Mata-Topaic/Maths- topic work	Litriú/Spellings Léitheoireacht/Reading	

\*English as well as Irish from Term 2.

### Key Stage 1 (Rang 4)

<b>An Luan / Monday</b>	<b>An Mháirt / Tuesday</b>	<b>An Chéadaoin / Wednesday</b>	<b>An Déardaoin / Thursday</b>	<b>An Aoine / Friday</b>
Litriú Spellings Léitheoireacht Gaeilge Mental Maths Mata Béarla	Litriú Spellings Léitheoireacht Gaeilge Mental Maths Mata Béarla	Litriú Spellings Léitheoireacht Gaeilge Mental Maths Mata Béarla	Litriú Spellings Léitheoireacht Mental Maths	Reading and Mental Maths encouraged over weekend.

### Key Stage 2 (Rang 5)

<b>An Luan / Monday</b>	<b>An Mháirt / Tuesday</b>	<b>An Chéadaoin / Wednesday</b>	<b>An Déardaoin / Thursday</b>	<b>An Aoine / Friday</b>
Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths Maths Literacy	Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths Maths Literacy	Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths World Around Us	Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths	

### Key Stage 2 (Rang 6)

<b>An Luan / Monday</b>	<b>An Mháirt / Tuesday</b>	<b>An Chéadaoin / Wednesday</b>	<b>An Déardaoin / Thursday</b>	<b>An Aoine / Friday</b>
Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths Maths Literacy	Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths Maths Literacy	Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths World Around Us	Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths	

### Key Stage 2 (Rang 7)

<b>An Luan / Monday</b>	<b>An Mháirt / Tuesday</b>	<b>An Chéadaoin / Wednesday</b>	<b>An Déardaoin / Thursday</b>	<b>An Aoine / Friday</b>
Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths Maths Literacy	Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths Maths Literacy	Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths World Around Us	Litriú & Spellings Léitheoireacht/reading Mental Maths	