

HOMEWORK PROGRAMME

How much time should be spent completing homework tasks?

Please note this is only a rough guide, as children do not all work at the same pace. Homework should also be manageable as many children also have other worthwhile activities they are involved in after school.

Stage	Approximate Time	Issued on	Returned by
P1-2	1 hour per week	Tuesday	Monday
P3	1 -1½ hours per week	Tuesday	Monday
P4-5	1½ - 2 hours per week	Tuesday	Monday
P6-7	2 - 2½ hours per week	Tuesday	Monday

By issuing the homework on a Tuesday to be returned by the following Monday, it allows the choice of weekdays or weekends to complete tasks. There may be occasions when the homework programme of the class may be disrupted due to a variety reasons, such as a change to the school/class timetable. In the approach to major holiday periods, such as Christmas and summer, the programme will stop two weeks before the end of term.

Homework Diaries

Each child will be issued with a homework diary appropriate to their stage. Class teachers will explain the system of recording homework activities to the children and an explanation of this will also be included in the first class newsletter to parents.

What kind of tasks will be set?

Homework activities must be appropriate to the needs and ability of the children. Some activities will be issued to the whole class and others will be differentiated to meet the different levels of learning needs within the class.

Core Learning Activities

Teachers will generally set homework from two or three of the core learning areas listed below, but this will vary at times depending on the stages of the children. The homework activities should help to consolidate learning that has already been taught in class. These may include:

- Literacy & English tasks (e.g. Reading, Phonics, Spelling, Writing, Talks)
- Numeracy & Maths tasks (e.g. Mental Maths, Number Processes & Problem Solving)
- Topic Tasks (can cover all other areas of the curriculum)

Additional Activities

In addition to the core learning tasks, other types of homework will be issued at points throughout the year. These will include Personal Projects and Shared Learning Plans. Teachers will only issue essential core learning tasks when these activities are implemented.

Personal Projects (P3-7)

Personal Project activities develop research and creativity skills as children investigate and present their findings on a topic of interest to them.

- One personal project should be issued each school year from P3-7.
- Personal Projects should not be issued in the final term.
- Project tasks should be appropriate to the age and stage of the children.
- Class teachers will issue information to parents outlining how the project should be carried out and the timescale for completion.

Shared Learning Plans (P1-7)

The Shared Learning Plan consists of a variety of twenty practical, written and oral activities spread across a four week period. Four of the activities are compulsory, parents and children can select as many of the other sixteen activities as they wish. These will be issued two or three times each school year. Detailed information will be issued when this type of homework is given out.

HELPING WITH HOMEWORK

There is no magic formula for helping children with their homework! What works well for one family will not suit another. Homework should not detract from other worthwhile activities that children may be involved in after school. We have listed below some points for consideration when helping your child with their homework activities.

- Check your child is recording their homework tasks clearly in their diary. Please inform the school if you notice a problem with this.
- Plan with your child where and when they are going to do their homework.
- Little and often is better, especially at the younger stages, than trying to do all homework tasks on one evening.
- Supervise how they are doing and help as appropriate.
- Encourage your child to present their homework neatly. If you are unhappy with the standard of their work, make a comment in their diary or you may wish to ask your child to repeat the task on the next page.
- You may wish to help your child correct one or two errors. If your child has made a number of errors, we would advise leaving the errors and writing a note in the jotter to alert the teacher who will go over the work again.
- If your child is confused or upset about a homework task, it is better to stop doing it and write a note to the class teacher.
- If your child consistently struggles to complete homework, make an appointment to discuss this with the class teacher.
- Try to remain patient, not always easy!
- Please sign the homework diary every week.

Thank you for your support with this policy and we look forward to working with you to promote home/school learning.

Helpful Websites

www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone provides information on other websites which may be of use to parents in supporting their child's learning at home. Class teachers may also from time to time suggest websites and details of these would be included in the class newsletter.



