



Homework Policy

The Aims of Homework

- To encourage pupils to develop the skills needed for independent learning.
- To consolidate, reinforce and extend the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the classroom.
- To give parents an insight into what is happening in school and to share in their child's learning.
- To develop an effective partnership between school and parents.

Organisational Issues

1. There will be an explanation of what homework will be set, as part of the Curriculum Information Sheets in September.
2. Homework in Holywood Primary School will normally be given each night from Monday to Thursday.
3. The duration and type of homework will depend on the age of the child and his/her ability within the classroom situation.
4. Homework may be written, oral or investigative.
5. Homework should reflect previous class work in order to practise skills and reinforce knowledge.
6. Homework may involve research into topics already being studied in class.
7. P4 to P7 pupils will be given homework diaries in which they will record the homework they are to do each night.
8. Home Read books are available for P1 – P3 children to read over a period of time which may include weekends.
9. BUG CLUB online reading and phonic resource available to all Year Groups
10. If the tasks are taking too long to complete, parents may endorse unfinished work as having taken the allocated time.
11. Parent-Teacher Interviews provide good opportunities to discuss what is expected from a child and also what role the parent may play in this learning experience.
12. No homework will be set during holidays.
13. No homework will be set if holidays are taken outside the official school holidays.

14. There may be occasions on which no homework will be set by a teacher.
15. Homework will be marked as soon as possible.
16. Teachers will give written and verbal praise for pieces of well prepared homework and will also make constructive comments on homework books, when appropriate.
17. Teachers will inform parents if children are regularly failing to produce homework or if the standard of homework is unacceptable.

The Role of the Parent or Carer

Parents are expected to follow the guidelines as set out above in this policy which should support their child's development and progress.

Parents should:-

- Provide a suitable, quiet place for their child to work.
- Talk about homework and the importance of carrying out homework tasks.
- Check deadlines and help their child develop time management skills.
- Give praise for the successful completion of work.
- Sign each piece of completed work.
- Inform the class teacher of any difficulties their child is experiencing in relation to homework that cannot be resolved at home.

NI Curriculum areas consolidated during a child's time at Hollywood Primary School when completing homework will include:-

Reading

Phonics

Spellings / Tables

Literacy

Numeracy (including Mental Maths)

ICT

Topic based activities which may include investigative activities or preparation for class events

Preparation for school events e.g. Music, Drama or Assembly preparation

Spellings

When helping your child to learn their spellings we suggest that you use the Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check technique.

1. Look at the words to be learned with your child. Check that they understand what the words mean.
2. Say each word – sounding out letter names for each word in turn.
3. Cover the word.
4. Write from memory, saying the letters aloud.
5. Check the spelling, correct if necessary.
6. Reward correct spellings with words of support. If incorrect, encourage your child to try again.

The importance of reading cannot be over-emphasised. Parents are asked to encourage children to read as widely and as often as possible. Library reading is just as important as following the school 'Reading Books'.

Below is an approximate recommended time that should be given to homework tasks and a list of typical activities that a child will complete for homework. Some homework activities may be completed over more than one evening. Teachers in each Year Group annually review and amend homework activities. This process includes consultation with parents. Information is relayed at Parent Curriculum Evenings in Term 1. Each parent / pupil also receives written homework guidelines. Pupils who enrol during the school year also receive this information.

Class	Time each night	Activities will include....
P1	10 / 15 minutes	Guided Reading Reinforcement of words taught in school Oral development of initial sounds leading to practise letter formations in Term 2. Phonic activities Activity homework e.g. oral / practical activities
P2	20 minutes	Guided Reading Learning words and simple comprehension activities linked to book Two phonic written activities which may be completed over 4 evenings Two numeracy written activities which may be completed over 2 evenings. Spelling introduced in Term 2.
P3	20 / 25 minutes	Guided Reading Spelling phonics and sentence construction. Table facts Short written homework in Numeracy & Literacy which may be completed over 3 evenings Occasional topic based homework given over a week.
P4	25 / 30 minutes	Guided Reading Linguistic phonics including a range of activities Table facts Mental Maths Written or learning homework (Mon - Thurs)
P5	30 / 40 minutes	Either Guided or Independent Reading Linguistic phonics / Table facts Mental Maths Written or learning homework (Mon - Thurs) Develop library reading
P6	45 / 55 minutes	Independent / Factual Reading Mental Maths Linguistic phonics / Table facts Written and learning homework (Mon - Thurs) Occasional homework based on other curricular area
P7	45 / 55 minutes	Independent Reading / Factual Reading Mental Maths Linguistic phonics / Table facts / vocabulary Written and learning homework (Mon - Thurs) Occasional homework based on other curricular area

Implementation: Term 2 2010
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