



Scoil Mhuire Horeswood **Homework Policy**

This homework policy is a revision of the existing one which was found to be out of line with curricular changes which have been introduced over the past few years particularly in literacy learning. Individual teachers have revised their own class level requirements following general discussion during dedicated planning time in term one 2013/2014 .

The role of homework

Homework is given to reinforce concepts and material learned during the school day. It is an opportunity to practice skills and sometimes further develop ideas through research. *Homework is not for parents!* If a child is having great difficulty with assigned work write a note in their homework diary. Some teachers have a self-assessment tool for children in the form of traffic lights to measure their understanding. Infant parents are given advice on how to help their child at both the induction and literacy nights.

It is useful to have a daily routine around homework, a quiet spot to sit and work free from distractions. Children should be able to do their homework by themselves. Parents can check to see that the work is completed, that written work is legible and makes sense and sign the homework diary. Where paired reading is part of homework the role of parents is crucial in developing an interest and love of reading.

Frequency

Homework will be given from Monday to Thursday with no homework on weekends. However if a pupil has unfinished work or merits extra work as a result of misbehaviour the class teacher may assign work at his/her own discretion.

There may be occasional "Homework free" nights throughout the year to mark significant achievements or celebrations. Teachers may also use a Homework Voucher system in their classrooms as part of their Code of Behaviour rewards.

Junior Infants (Homework begins in October)

Letter or number practice each night

Children practice the formation of the new "letter of the week" in their handwriting copies **or** they revise number/shape/pattern by doing a page in "Planet Maths"

Sound notebook – practice sounds every night

Each child has a sound notebook. We are using the Jolly Phonics programme. Parents are asked to revise all the sounds in the notebook each night.

From November on- Paired Reading or Text reading

Parents are encouraged to read with their child each night. Child chooses book. Alternatively reading may be marked from “Wonderland” scheme to be read with parent.

Word blending wallet and Wandsville wallet may also be in the School bag.

Wandsville wallet- Children are encouraged to make sentences using the vocabulary from the scheme.

Word blending wallet- As part of the Jolly Phonics scheme, the children are asked to use letters to build words (made up from the sounds they have learnt. (4 out of 5 per night are recommended)

There are some excellent short video clips on www.ncca.ie/primary/parents which you might find helpful

Homework should not take longer than 10minutes in Junior Infants.

Senior Infants

Literacy:

- Paired Reading: 2 readers per week. A considerable amount of oral language work is required for this activity e.g. discussing the pictures, retelling & sequencing events to consolidate the content. Drawing attention to individual sounds of letters and the sounds they make when blended together will help your child decode unknown words.
Sound Notebook: Will be part of homework for the first term to introduce 6 new sounds from *Jolly Phonics* and to revise sounds learned in Junior Infants
- A written activity from one of the following curricular areas –Maths, English, SESE, R.E., SPHE
- Cutting and pasting should be encouraged at home. This helps to develop & improve your child’s motor skills, coordination and dexterity.

1st Class

Literacy:

- Library reading of paired reading book each night with amount to be recorded
- Instructional reading scheme will not be given every night but following completion of a story. Reading from the reader will also be given for the purpose of locating words, asking & answering questions.
- 10 spellings over the course of a week. Children to be encouraged to use Look/ Say/ Cover/Write /Check approach when learning spellings
- Three sentences three nights per week and one sentence one night. Sentences will use spellings of the week to reinforce context and meaning or may be from a prepared workbook activity

Mathematics:

- Some simple Maths to reinforce schoolwork.
- “Doubles” tables will be learned before Christmas and addition tables after Christmas

2nd Class**Literacy:**

- Paired Reading book each night with amount to be recorded.
- Instructional reading scheme will not be given every night but following completion of a story. Reading from the reader will also be given for the purpose of locating words, asking and answering questions.
- 10 spellings over the course of a week. Children continue to use Look/Say/Cover/Write/Check approach when learning spellings

Mathematics:

- Some simple Maths to reinforce schoolwork or daily activity from Mental Maths workbook

Doubles tables will be learned before Christmas and addition after Christmas including near doubles, adding 10, adding 1 less/ 1 more than 10 etc. or counting in 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's, 6's or 10's.

General:

One Written Activity from one of the following :
Maths/SESE/English/Music/Handwriting/Gaeilge

3rd Class**Literacy:**

- Library book or story from reader every night.
- Written activity in English or Gaeilge nightly
- Spellings nightly
- Poetry (occasionally)

Mathematics:

- Maths exercise & tables nightly

General:

- S.E.S.E. (occasionally)

4th Class**Language:**

- Reading from Library book every night
- English Spelling: 4 words per night using Look/Say/Cover/Write/Check method
- Verse of poem to learn occasionally
- Reading from class reader or other reading material (2 nights)
- Occasional written activity based on a class lesson
- Reading and learning new vocabulary word banks each evening based on class story

Gaeilge:

- Learning Irish verbs
 - Litríú (3 per night) Written activity to accompany the spelling list
- Handwriting: Activity from Handwriting Book
- Mathematics:
- Mental Maths activity each evening (20 sums)
 - On occasion 4/5 sums based on the daily lesson to reinforce concepts
 - Tables (+, -, ×, ÷) + Learning multiples
- General:
- Written assignment from Earthlink /Atlas Hunt
 - Sentences each night or spelling story once a week.
 - Revision SESE topics
 - Occasional oral research or written work for class project work

5th and 6th Class

Literacy:

- Children should have a library book at all times. A short written summary is done on completion of each book. Occasional designated reading other than library book , content of which is questioned the following day.
- Occasional written activity based on class lesson
- Occasional poem to learn (part or all of)
- 4 spellings per night using Look, Say, Cover, Write , Check approach.

Gaeilge:

- Occasional reading, word banks, spelling, poetry or written activity

Numeracy:

- Group of exercises based on the daily lesson to reinforce concepts
- Tables

General:

- Occasional activity from other subjects
- Occasional oral research of topic

Suggested breakdown of time for Homework in senior classes as a useful parental guide and check

Subject 1: 15 mins

Subject 2: 10-15mins

Subject 3: 10 mins

Subject 4: 5-10mins

+ Bedtime Reading!