



Crookfur Primary School & Nursery Class



3rd September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Last year following feedback from our Parent Forum, Mrs Nisbet led a development group who carried out a consultation and review of our homework policy. They sought the views of pupils, parents and staff on all aspects of homework and looked at the models used in other schools. There were many varying views and opinions expressed, however the group has reached the following conclusions:

- ✓ Some homework is beneficial, as long as it's pitched at the right level.
- ✓ The purpose of homework tasks must be clear to both children and parents.
- ✓ There must be consistency across the school in the administration of homework.

Over the next few weeks we will draft a revised Homework Policy which will capture the rationale behind our approaches to homework and provide an overview of homework across the school. In addition, throughout the session we will continue to work with the Parent Council to promote Parental Engagement and wider opportunities for the development of family learning across Crookfur Primary and Nursery Class.

Over the next few weeks we will gradually introduce homework activities for your child. They will be issued on a Tuesday to be returned the following Monday. Please see the note below for an outline of homework for weeks beginning 3rd, 10th and 17th of September:

Wk beg 3rd Sept (Homework distributed on 4th)

P1- No homework (until after Sept weekend as previously communicated to parents)

P2-P7- Talk homework (in line with weekly writing lesson)

Task/Activity based on Bounce Back

Reading homework- Pages will be set from your child's class reader. In the lower school these will be pages that have already been read with the teacher and discussed. They should be practised at home to build up skills in decoding/fluency and expression. Moving further up the school, pages may be set for your child to read to a certain point to enable them to move through a text. For example, if your child has a book and they've read chapter one in class with the teacher, they may be set chapter 2 to read at home in order for them to work with a passage from chapter 3 in class the following week. Parents/carers will be provided with a prompt sheet to ask questions which promote thinking and check understanding at home. There are lots of questions which address a variety of reading skills. Parents should only ask 3 or 4 that they feel would be relevant to the text or a skill that your child is working on. If you feel the text is particularly lengthy then please feel free to read page about, with you reading a page and your child reading a page.

Wk beg 10th Sept (Homework distributed on 11th)

P1- No homework (until after Sept weekend as previously communicated to parents)

P2-P7- Talk homework (in line with weekly writing lesson)

Reading homework (as detailed above)

Maths Week Scotland homework

Wk beg 17th Sept (Homework distributed on 18th)

P1- No homework (until after Sept weekend as previously communicated to parents)

P2-P7- Talk homework (in line with weekly writing lesson)

Reading homework (as detailed above)

Maths homework

Please note homework distributed on 18th Sept should be returned on Monday 1st October. No homework will be issued on Tuesday 25th September.

By Tuesday 2nd October, I will have had time to share the new policy with both staff and parents and will have guidance drawn up. This will detail when homework will be set and returned as well as the type of activities to be completed. Homework diaries will be provided for P3-7 at this point as well as spelling jotters and maths jotters where appropriate.

This will be a pilot and some activities might be added to or amended throughout the year.

Ultimately the work of the group has been excellent in capturing the views of pupils, parents and staff as well as streamlining the organisation of homework, making it consistent and progressive. I hope everyone (well, the majority 😊) will be happy with it!

Above all else, homework should never be a source of anxiety or upset in your household. We understand quality family life comes first and if there are any issues in completing a task, please pop a note in your child's homework diary. As a rough guide, tasks should take no more than 10 minutes per evening for P1-P4 or 15 minutes for P5-P7.

I have previously run very successful partnership homework clubs, where parents and children can come along at the end of the school day to complete homework. This has the benefit of providing a quiet environment, any required resources or materials and school staff on hand to offer any support. These would run on Tuesdays and Thursdays 3.30-4.00pm, with time for a snack and drink 3.15-3.30pm. I will send a separate letter regarding Homework Club to gauge interest and provide more information.

In the meantime, if you have any further comments or questions regarding homework, please do get in touch.

Kindest regards

Sheena McGuigan
Head Teacher