

## **Homework Policy** **Merrylee Primary School**



### **Rationale**

The main focus for learning will be across literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in providing opportunities for children to reconnect with school and their teachers. Homework will continue to add an important dimension to the education of pupils in Merrylee Primary school. Homework activities will be reflective of the approaches to learning practised in class, for example implementation of **active** and **contextualised learning**. Engaging children in **contextualised learning**, outside of school, enables them to apply their skills in a meaningful way. Homework tasks will also provide opportunities for skills practice so as to develop pupil **mastery** in aspects of maths and literacy, for example, learning the times tables, revising spelling rules etc. Through our homework policy and practice we endeavour to ensure that every pupil will be provided with a range of activities and experiences. This will provide an opportunity for children to consolidate, reflect and build upon their learning and experiences in the classroom and ultimately foster a curiosity and love for learning.

### **Purpose of Homework**

Our establishment firmly believes that issuing regular, varied, meaningful and interesting home learning will:

- Strengthen partnership between home and school
- Enable parents/ carers to participate in their child's learning
- Promote self-reliance, self-discipline, self-confidence and encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Develop children's ability to plan and organise their work and to make appropriate choices to further their learning

### **Nature of Homework**

**At this time, the main focus for homework will be numeracy and literacy.**

#### **Weekly Homework**

Homework tasks relating to spelling, reading and numeracy, based on concepts being covered in class, will be issued weekly for additional practice and reinforcement. Pupils should complete the activities at home for regular practice. At this time, we are trying to limit items travelling between home and school. Each child will be issued with a homework jotter which should remain at home for their use. Home learning does not require to be returned to school or assessed by the teacher as all assessment will be done from class learning. However, homework tasks will still be discussed in class so it is important that all pupils do complete the activities. Reading books will still be sent home for practice and should be returned to school. Books will be quarantined for 72 hours before being reissued. Your child's class teacher will inform you of when homework will be issued and days for completion.

### **Accessing Homework**

Homework tasks will be posted in the 'Journal' section on Seesaw, using the Family App, and it will be **tagged into a folder called 'Home Learning' or 'Homework.'** This will make tasks easier to access and avoid them being lost in the various updates which you receive from the class teachers and senior leadership team.

**There is a whole school expectation that *all* pupils complete weekly home learning tasks** (we appreciate that in some individual circumstances that there will be exceptions to this so please contact one of the leadership team if you have concerns).

### **Homework Guidance**

All stages will be issued with a home learning journal. This can be used to record homework activities as and when required. It is recommended that children do not spend any longer than 10-15 minutes at P1-3 and 20-45 minutes at P4-7 per evening.

### **Spelling**

- Spelling words will be issued on a weekly basis and the focus/ rule being learned will be highlighted by teachers
- Children will be assigned one spelling activity to be completed each week, this will provide them with a variety of spelling strategies throughout the year

### **Literacy**

Teachers will set tasks which reflect the approaches of Glasgow's 'Literacy For All' methodology. The area of literacy focus will be highlighted by teachers and will include one of the following areas:

- Reading for Enjoyment
- Research Reading
- Literacy Circles
- Before, during and after reading strategies
- Close Reading
- Higher Order Thinking Skills

Teachers will also note the text to be used to complete the activity.

If necessary teachers may post a photographed example of some activities to support pupil understanding

### **Numeracy and Maths**

Teachers will set tasks which reflect Glasgow Counts strategies. Activities encourage families to use concrete approaches using recycled or every day materials. If necessary, teachers may post a photographed example of some activities to support pupil understanding.

Further guidance can be found on the 'Merrylee Maths' blog created by Miss Kirk.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/merryleemaths/author/gw15kirkcatrionaglow-2/>

### **Supporting Homework**

Homework tasks can enrich and enhance pupils' progress and learning when parents/carers and children work together. We believe that homework is at the forefront of partnership between

home and school, it is therefore crucial that parents/carers of our pupils are actively involved in our homework practice as a “*helpful presence*” when their child is completing homework.

If you have any queries regarding the homework policy or have any concerns about your child’s learning, please get in touch with any member of the Senior Leadership Team:

Mrs Haddock (Head Teacher)

[CHaddock@merrylee-pri.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:CHaddock@merrylee-pri.glasgow.sch.uk)

Miss Kirk (Depute Head Teacher P1-3)

[CKirk@merrylee-pri.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:CKirk@merrylee-pri.glasgow.sch.uk)

Miss McElhone (Depute Head Teacher P4-7)

[JMcelhone@merrylee-pri.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:JMcelhone@merrylee-pri.glasgow.sch.uk)