

St. Fillan's Primary School

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Children's Services

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Head Teacher: Mrs Claire Mackenzie

Wednesday 19th January 2022

HOMEWORK POLICY & PRACTICE UPDATE

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our parents who have children in Primaries 3 and beyond may recall that we facilitated a 'Homework Consultation' in October 2019 in the form of a robust questionnaire that was issued and completed at Parents Evening. Due to my period of Maternity Leave and subsequent events/lockdowns as a result of COVID, we were unable to complete our consultation and review our policy and practice.

We have already analysed and shared with you the data that was collected at this time and we hope to engage the Parents/Carers of our Primary one and two children in the consultation over the next few weeks to ascertain and take into consideration their views. We acknowledge that our reviewed practice will be incredibly challenging to suit every family's circumstances, but with your views we hope we can provide a policy which takes everyone's ideas into account.

In the meantime, we have created a simple overview on the page overleaf around the expectations of homework which is age and stage appropriate for your perusal.

The perceived benefits of children engaging in homework tasks will be outlined in our refreshed policy, but it is worth noting that the principal purpose of homework is to reinforce and consolidate learning that has taken place during the school day. It is also a forum for this learning to be shared with parents.

As you will no doubt be aware, the most complex issue with homework is the range of differing views around what it should look like for your own children. We know that children's perceptions differ as does our own around the value and importance of homework. We are mindful that our families are very different and that there may be challenges around your child completing tasks due to a variety of reasons.

We are also aware that many children have a variety of social commitments in the form of clubs and other activities which may prevent them from completing set tasks

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on specific days. Please know that we understand, and that we do not wish to cause any unnecessary anxiety to children or parents if tasks are not complete for specific time. Equally, if your child is too tired/unwell, then we would not expect your child to complete homework on these days.

The children now have a 'Homework Diary' which has many functions with one being correspondence and relationship building between home and school. If your child is unable to complete homework, they will not be directly questioned about this in class, however, it would be helpful if you were able to provide the Class Teacher with a curtesy note in your child's diary to indicate that you are aware that homework/a piece of homework has not been submitted. We do not require an explanation, just an acknowledgement that you are aware of the non- submission. This would include homework that is issued in class or via 'Goggle Classrooms.' This is not to suggest that our teacher's will not place value on homework or encourage the children to complete homework tasks that they have prepared.

If you have any issues/concerns around your child's homework in general, then please contact your child's Class Teacher. As they set tasks, then they are best placed to answer questions/provide support.

Overview of Tasks Across the School:

Please note that homework will be set at the teacher's discretion and this list of tasks is not exhaustive. Class teachers are responsive to the learning needs of the child, and therefore, the issuing of homework is flexible with consideration given to support and challenge.

Set homework tasks will be relevant, meaningful and engaging. In the early stages, core skills in Reading, Writing and Numeracy will be developed with increasing personalisation and choice through the medium of research as the children progress towards the upper stages. Throughout all stages, a focus on consolidation, support and challenge is a key consideration.

Stage	Overview of Core Homework Activities
Early Level – Primary 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading• Sounds/Phonics• Word Box• Maths related tasks/reinforcement of concepts – for example: Number stories/bonds.• Literacy related tasks.• Show and Tell preparation
First Level – Primaries 2 – 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading• Spelling• Literacy – written homework

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths – written homework • Research – weekly, monthly or extended termly pieces (usually in line with the children's topic/ IDL (Interdisciplinary studies)).
Second Level – Primaries 5 - 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Spelling • Literacy – written homework • Maths – written homework • Research – weekly, monthly or extended termly pieces (usually in line with the children's topic/ IDL (Interdisciplinary studies)).

Additional/Alternative Tasks may Include:

- Practicing of number concepts – for example, times tables.
- Engagement in an online game.
- Practicing songs for class performance.
- Revision of spelling words/rules in preparation for weekly assessments.
- Homework based on other curricular areas including RE (Sacraments, learning prayers), Health and Well being, Technologies.
- Preparation for 'Show and Tell' (Infant Stages) or solo presentations (Middle/Upper Stages).
- Bringing in items – junk materials, photographs to discuss, treasures etc.
- Home Shared Learning such as 'Dinner Table Conversations' – to promote discussion and sharing learning at home.
- We also encourage our children to engage in 'Reading for Enjoyment' at home and this can take the form of a variety of genres including novels, non-fiction books, diaries, comics etc.

I entrust that you will find this information to be helpful and reassuring and we thank you for all the support you have given to your children at home and the continued efforts you make to support their learning.

Kindest Regards,

C Mackenzie

Mrs Claire Mackenzie
Head Teacher



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