

Kirklandpark Primary



Homework Policy

Introduction

In Kirklandpark Primary, we believe that homework can

- play an effective role in reinforcing learning
- develop skills
- foster independent study habits
- enable parents & carers to support child's learning
- communicate children's learning with parents & carers

Our policy provides clear guidance on the purpose, expectations and implementation of homework across all stages within our school.

Aims Of Our Policy

- To define the role of homework in supporting learning outcomes
- To ensure a consistent approach throughout the school
- Establish clear expectations for pupils, staff and parents / carers
- Ensure consistency and fairness in the setting, frequency, completion and submission of homework
- To provide guidance on reasons and procedures for parents / carers to opt out of homework completion

Purposes Of Homework:

- To encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivated need to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education.
- To reflect differentiation by extending the range of experiences and further challenge as appropriate
- To consolidate learning where appropriate
- To revise prior learning where appropriate

Principles

- The amount of homework is tailored to the age, stage and needs of the child.
- Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework, whilst also promoting and enabling a healthy home / school work balance.
- Homework should be linked to prior or current classroom learning and skills development to ensure that it is relevant and meaningful.
- Tasks should be purposeful and clear with examples of work included (as appropriate) to provide guidance to parents and children.

- A baseline level of homework will be provided for children with the option of additional tasks

Opting Out Of Homework

Parents to have the option for their child to opt out for the academic year. Communication is sent out in August via Parent Portal.

A signed return from a child's parent is needed to clarify this arrangement for the year ahead.

For some, the completion of homework can put a lot of stress on family life due to:

- limited availability of time for completion due to work or other commitments
- the additional support needs of children, requiring time to decompress when they return home from school or being very tired due to the high level of concentration that they sustain during their school day

There would be an option for parents to change their mind (to opt back in) by getting in touch to let us know at any point during the school year if circumstances change.

Adaptations To Pre-2025 Homework Programme

Following extensive consultation with parents, children and teachers and in order to better fit with family life and circumstances, we will retain homework but reduce it by 50% of our previous programme.

1. Teachers will plan homework with the knowledge that it is likely to be completed on one sitting or over two by most children, rather than across days (Monday – Thursday).
2. Our basic homework programme can be supplemented with our 'if you want to do more' list for each stage. This sits in each Google Classroom as a standard item and can be accessed as and when required.

Additional, optional tasks will not be handed in, marked or assessed by the class teacher.

Each stage's 'If You Want To Do More,' list might include:

- websites and apps to consolidate learning
- examples of multi-sensory / active spelling activities
- reading vocabulary consolidation activities
- advice to re-read reading books or play games to
- consolidate word recognition

3. Spelling homework is set on a Monday to be submitted on a Friday.
Written spelling tasks are completed in children's spelling homework jotters.

Spelling homework comprises of two tasks:

- sentences for P1 – 4 and paragraphs for P5-7.
- revision for the weekly test / dictation that takes place on a Friday. This can be completed orally and does not require to be written in children's jotters.

4. One written maths / numeracy task is set on a Wednesday for submission the following Tuesday.
Written tasks are completed in children's maths / numeracy homework jotters.

Maths & Numeracy tasks will be provided as workcards or worksheets for children in P1, 2 & 3 with children in P4-7 accessing questions and tasks via Google Classroom.

Maths & Numeracy homework tasks should be focused, comprising of no more than 5 word problems or an A5 page of non-word problem maths calculations.

- consolidate classroom learning
- revise prior learning to refresh knowledge and skills
- communicate learning

5. Primary 1 complete their written tasks on a double sided A5 worksheet. This is given out on a Monday for submission on a Friday. One side of the sheet will be literacy based and the other will be numeracy based.
6. Our house points are used to reward children for submitting homework that is of a high standard of presentation, content and effort in a similar way as would be occur for any other piece of school work. Children are not given house points for simple would not be given for submission.

Time	Primary 1	Primary 2&3	Primary 4&5	Primary 6&7
Maximum Amount Of Time Per Sitting	Up to 15 minutes	Up to 15 minutes	Up to 20 minutes	Up to 30 minutes
Maximum Of Time Over Week (Based on the completion of homework over 2 sessions)	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 30 minutes	Up to 40 minutes	Up to 60 minutes

Tasks	Primary 1	Primary 2&3	Primary 4&5	Primary 6&7
Reading	One Storyworld book per week. This will be issued on either a Monday or Tuesday for return the following Monday or Tuesday. New common words given on a Monday. Practice as often as possible, minimum twice per week. (When novels are started, usually Primary 3, the books will not change on a weekly basis.) Online Monster Phonics Is Optional For Families		Set on a Monday for submission / use the following Monday.	
Spelling / Phonics	Sounds consolidation book issued on a Monday for submission on a Friday	Spelling sentences / paragraphs set on a Monday for return on a Friday Thursday night revision for test / dictation on Friday.		
Written Maths	On a Wednesday to be returned by the following Tuesday			

Primary 3-7

Spelling words are posted on Google Classroom.

Children also write them in their homework diaries.

Written Maths: Hard copies of the task are sent home with Primary 3 children.

Maths tasks are posted on Google classroom for children in Primary 4-7.

Exception:

Children who have writing difficulties or ASN and may cope better with the completion of tasks online or by typing their responses to tasks.

Children in P3-7 who cannot access Google Classroom will be given hard copies of tasks for both spelling and maths.

Expectation Of Parents: Written spelling and Maths tasks to be checked and signed by parent / carer.

Expectation Of Teaching Staff: Homework is set on a weekly basis as outlined above.
Written tasks are marked and feedback is given to children.
Clear and regular reminders of the dates and tasks set will be provided via Google Classroom.
Tasks set will be differentiated and appropriate to a child's pace of learning, providing challenge and consolidation.

Expectation Of Children:

- Neat and tidy, well presented written tasks with appropriate layout and use of space
- All homework tasks to be dated and given a title
- Dates and titles to be underlined
- Written homework tasks to be completed in pencil unless directed otherwise

- An eraser to be used to correct errors. Errors must not be scored out.
- Spelling words underlined in sentences / dictation

How Parents / Carers Can Help Children With Their Homework

To show children that homework is valued, parents can:

- Provide a suitable place for children to do their homework, preferably with access to an adult who can provide guidance, encouragement and support as required
- Encourage children and praise them when they have completed their work to a high standard
- Ensuring that children complete their homework and hand it into school on the submission date
- Giving a clear message that homework is about reinforcing, practicing and confidence building

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