

Drumahoe Primary School

Homework Policy – COVID-19 Addendum



Homework for the 2020-2021 Academic Year until further notice ref. COVID-19

Due to the Covid19 Guidance from the Department of Education (August 2020), it is recommended that as little paper as possible is sent from school to home and vice versa. Because of this, children will complete a mix of paper based homework tasks and Seesaw/Google Classroom activities.

Homework - Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2

For children in Foundation Stage activities which teachers set to be done at home may not be described as 'homework' but will support successful learning. Occasionally the youngest children will have a task which is designed to involve some form of activity and to encourage parental interest and involvement.

Information outlined in the "**Making Maths Matter**" booklets issued at the beginning of each term is intended to be used by parents as an ongoing guide to activities that can be carried out at home.

Homework activities for children at this developmental stage will take into account:

- the vital importance of developing reading, writing and numeracy skills;
- the needs of the individual child;
- the need for clear and achievable tasks and monitoring;
- the opportunity for pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.

Year 1: Reading Pupils, at an appropriate stage during their first term, will be given a selection of take-home discussion/library books. He/she should be encouraged to:

- handle these books appropriately;
- join in with familiar parts;
- talk about events that are happening;
- answer questions about the pictures;
- retell the story in their own words;
- predict what they think might happen next;

It is not necessary for children to learn and be able to read these books - they are intended to be shared together with parents acting as the "role model."

Parents are asked to read and talk about these discussion books with their child. Further guidance on this will be given to parents on commencement of this type of homework as discussions about the pictures and storyline are vital stepping stones in learning to read.

In Term 2 pupils will be asked to focus on acquiring a bank of words that frequently recur in texts. Once a number of key words are known children will be given a selection of books which they will be capable of reading independently. Further information will be given at the Parent-Teacher meeting in January.

Phonics – pupils will be asked to find an object at home beginning with the sound for that week and bring it to school for the “Sound Table.”

When talking about letters parents are encouraged to use the letter sound instead of the actual letter name eg ssss for ‘s’ not ‘ess’.

Year 2: Reading Pupils will be given a reading book that is at an appropriate level for them. At this stage children should be able to track and read the text for themselves. The reading will be prepared at school and taken home the following week. It has therefore been sent home for the enjoyment of reading and to reinforce and consolidate learning.

As well as listening to the child reading the text parents are also asked:

- to discuss the pictures in the book as children at this stage are encouraged to use picture cues as an aid to their reading;
- to support their child in using their phonics to sound out unknown words, where possible;
- to encourage their child to self-correct if what they have read does not make sense;
- to focus on comprehension by asking questions based on the story such as:
Who ...?
What happened after...?
How do you think Tom felt when ...?
Why do you think ...?
- to think about the sequence of the story, e.g. how quickly can the child find the part where a certain event happened?
- to choose one of the key words listed on the inside front cover of the reading book for their child to find on e.g. page 6.

Pupils will also be asked to focus on acquiring a bank of words that frequently recur in texts and are therefore considered to be “key” to fluent reading.

Tables - Once introduced, pupils will have Tables or mental maths facts to learn each evening from Monday to Wednesday with revision of these on Thursday night and a review of the week’s facts on Friday in class. At this stage, pupils need a lot of repetition to consolidate the quick recall of these facts.

Spellings - In Year 2 Spellings are introduced in Term 2 and are taught in class. The outcomes of the Friday Tests may be sent home on occasions to allow parents to see their child’s progress.

In Years 1 and 2, consultation with your child’s teacher is welcomed, particularly if there are any concerns or queries about any aspect of homework.

Foundation Stage Summary

P1 Homework

Term 1

Sound book/Letter Formation homework book and writing pencil sent home. Parents take photo of completed work and upload onto Seesaw. Teacher marks work on Seesaw. Child finds an object beginning with new sound and forwards a photo on Seesaw to Teacher – this is discussed as a 'Show and Tell' in class.

Term 2

Continuation of sound book from Term 1

Child finds an object beginning with new sound and forwards a photo on Seesaw to Teacher – this is discussed as a 'Show and Tell' in class.

Keywords commence for children who are ready. Word pack will be sent home and parents will be informed of new words to learn via Seesaw each Monday. Words will not be returned to school.

Reading books will be sent home for children who are ready. Books will go home on a Monday and be returned on a Friday to allow for a quarantine period.

Term 3

New keywords will be sent home via Seesaw each Monday. Words will not be returned to school.

Reading books will be sent home for most children. Books will go home on a Monday and be returned on a Friday to allow for a quarantine period.

P2 Homework

Term 1

Number formation book – one number a week (Recovery Curriculum)

Letter formation book – one letter a week

Keywords and booklet (marked through Seesaw)

Reading – one reading book weekly (Home on a Monday and returned on a Thursday)

Term 2

Keywords and booklet (marked through Seesaw)

Reading – one reading book weekly (Home on a Monday and returned on a Thursday)

Tables – booklet will be sent home. (marked on Seesaw)

Term 3

Keywords and Keyword booklet (marked through Seesaw)

Reading – one reading book weekly (Home on a Monday and returned on a Thursday)

Tables – booklet will be sent home (marked on Seesaw)

Homework - Key Stage 1 - Years 3 and 4

We aim to provide a sensible programme for homework activities in K.S.1. The homework set will be primarily reading, spellings, tables and in Year 4, other Literacy and Numeracy tasks.

These tasks will be designed to be as enjoyable and active as possible, planned in such a way that parents can easily be involved. They will take into account:

- the reinforcement and consolidation of class based learning;
- the additional needs of some children for extra help;
- the importance of developing and extending reading, writing and numeracy skills;
- the opportunity for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.

At the beginning of each term a Numeracy booklet, "**Making Maths Matter**" is issued to parents as a guide to activities that can be carried out at home.

Reading: In Years 3 and 4 this can involve parents in listening, discussing characters or plot, asking questions and helping pupils to know sounds and basic punctuation. Reading is prepared at school and practised at home the following week. Re-reading books at home is for reinforcement, as is learning any words and their meanings from the wordlists in some books.

In addition to listening to the child reading the text, parents are asked to stop and talk about what is happening in the story or text. Ask your child what he or she thinks about it, e.g. "Why do you think the mouse did that?" "What would you do if you saw a strange box under the tree?" "How do you think Sam feels in the story?"

Key Stage 1

A plastic wallet to be sent home on Monday containing:

P3

- Spellings
- Tables
- Reading book
- Reading comprehension activity relating to book and/or keywords
- Other relevant Class/School notes/leaflets/letters etc.

Children in P3 will return their homework folder with spellings, tables, reading book and activity to the teacher on a **Thursday** and the online tasks/activities will be submitted to the teacher through Seesaw.

P4

- Spellings
- Tables
- Reading book
- Literacy homework – Reading Comprehension activity relating to book
- Literacy/Topic homework – paper-based or online – set through Seesaw or C2K Newsdesk
- Numeracy homework – paper-based or online MyMaths homework
- Other relevant Class/School notes/leaflets/letters etc.

Children in P4 will return their homework folder with spellings, tables, reading book, reading activity and any paper-based homework to the teacher on a **Friday** and the online tasks/activities will be submitted to the teacher through Seesaw.

Year 3

- Reading Spellings** Monday – Thursday. This may include an accompanying activity sheet. up to 7 new spellings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, revision on Thursday with a test on Friday.
- Tables** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday.

Year 4

- Reading: Spellings:** Monday - Thursday. This may include an accompanying activity sheet. Up to 8 new spellings, Monday - Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with a test on Friday
- Tables:** Monday - Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with Test on Friday

P4 Written Homework:

Written/Online homework, Monday – Wednesday will be based mainly on Literacy and Numeracy tasks.

Consultation with your child's teacher is welcomed in Years 3 and 4, particularly if there are any concerns or queries.

Homework - Key Stage 2 - Years 5 - 7

A plastic wallet will be sent home on Monday containing:

- Any paper copies of written homework to be carried out;
- Spelling and Tables list if required;
- Other relevant Class/School notes/leaflets/letters etc.

Children in KS 2 (P5-P7) will return any paper tasks back to the teacher on a Friday and the online tasks/activities will be submitted to the teacher through Seesaw/Google Classroom.

- P5 & P6 - there will be 3 homework tasks each week consisting of literacy numeracy and one other curricular area ie. World Around Us, PE, PDMU etc;
- P7 will complete 4 homework tasks;
- These tasks will be a combination of paper and online activities;
- Teachers will approve and add a comment re. online tasks;
- Children will only be asked to complete one written/online homework task each night;
- The homework does not have to be long and should reinforce the learning that took place in school during the day so should not be difficult for the pupils to complete.

P5-P7 - Spellings & Tables for homework:

- I. The Spelling/Table List will be sent home - Monday on paper if required;
- II. The Spelling List/Table will also be sent on Mon to parents through Seesaw/Google Classroom;
- III. Children have to learn spellings/tables Mon-Wed with revision on Thursday for a Spelling/Tables Test on Friday;
- IV. There will be no spelling tasks at home unless it is the main piece of literacy homework.

Key Stage 2 (P5-P7)

Spellings: Monday - Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with test on Friday

Tables: Various tables Monday - Wednesday, revision of these on Thursday with test on Friday

P5 & P6 Written Homework (3 Tasks per week):

- Mainly Literacy or Numeracy and occasionally other curricular areas;
- C2K Newsdesk based tasks
- Literacy/Topic homework – paper-based or online – set through Seesaw
- Numeracy homework – paper-based or online MyMaths homework.

P5 - P7 Reading – Monday - Thursday

Reading books are not being sent home at present but children are encouraged to read their own books each night at home. Children requiring support with reading will access 'Lexia' at home and will also avail of in-class support during the day.

All children will be registered shortly for 'Accelerated Reader' and will complete online quizzes at home and in school regarding the books that they are reading.

It is our intention to send reading books home at some stage this year but not as yet.

P7 Written Homework (4 Tasks per week):

- Mainly Literacy or Numeracy and occasionally other curricular areas;
- C2K Newsdesk based tasks;
- Literacy/Topic homework – paper-based or online – set through Google Classroom;
- Numeracy homework – paper-based or online MyMaths homework.

Parental Guidance

Information outlined in the "Making Maths Matter" booklets issued at the beginning of each term is intended to be used by parents as an ongoing guide to activities that can be carried out at home.

Homework activities at Key Stage 2 are designed to be mostly independent tasks however parents must still play an important role in overseeing the work children carry out at home and helping their children if they require assistance. Parental interest and support in their child's school work has been shown to increase confidence and attainment.