



HOMEWORK POLICY

	Reviewed	Amended
February 2024	Yes	Yes



Homework Policy

When the Department of Education NI encouraged parents to “Give your child a Helping Hand – Support their education” it was noted that -

“Education opens up a world of opportunities for children and young people and parental involvement and encouragement plays an essential part, from the very early years through to the vital exam stages.”

“Read to them from an early age; show an interest in their day at school; talk to them about their homework; and help them make the decisions now that will shape them into the adults they will become in the future.”

Derek Baker Permanent Secretary at the Department, 29 January 2018

In Newbuildings PS, homework is an important part of the work of our school and is a point of regular contact for many parents with the school. Each child will be given homework, suitable to his/her ability to:

- Reinforce work done in the classroom particularly improving literacy, numeracy and recall skills.
- Help him/her develop a habit for personal study and nurture the discipline of completing a set task
- Keep parents up to date with their child’s learning.
- Give parents an opportunity to become involved in their child’s learning.

The content will vary according to the work being completed in class but will be based on:

- Written exercises (especially in Literacy and Numeracy)
- Practical work
- Reading
- Spellings
- Oral investigations
- Learning by heart
- Art activity

Homework will be given by every teacher Monday – Thursday and at weekends where appropriate. The length of time to be spent on homework will also vary with the age of pupil. In setting homework, staff will follow the guidelines below which suggest an approximate length of time to be spent on homework.

Homework Arrangements

Foundation Stage

Primary 1

Term 1- 2 Literacy tasks and 2 Numeracy tasks per week

Term 2 and 3- 2 Literacy and 2 Numeracy tasks per week, guided reading, key words

Homework is sent on a Monday and to be returned on a Friday. Homework should last approximately 20 minutes.

Primary 2

Term 1 & 2 - 2 Literacy and 2 Numeracy tasks, guided reading, key words

Term 3 - 2 Literacy and 2 Numeracy tasks, guided reading, key words, spellings, and number facts

All homework is sent home on a Monday and returned on a Friday. Homework should last approximately 20/30 minutes.

Key Stage 1

Primary 3

September to Mid-February

Daily Reading

Daily Keywords (if still applicable)

Spellings and related activities

Number facts and related activities.

Monday – Wednesday inclusive Reading Eggs lesson (10 minutes)

Thursday

Daily Reading

Daily Keywords (if still applicable)

Spellings and related activities

Number facts and related activities.

Maths Seeds lesson (10 minutes)

Friday

Spellings and number bond corrections 5 times each

Mid- February to June

As above with an added written homework on a Monday and Wednesday

All homework is sent home on a Friday to be returned the following Friday.

Primary 4

Daily Reading

Spellings and Mental Maths

Daily Phonics Activity

Monday- Dictionary work

Tuesday - Sound sorting

Wednesday - Choose 5 words to use in sentences.

Thursday - Practice for Friday Mental Maths & Spelling test.

Daily Written Homework

Monday: Comprehension

Tuesday: Maths Activity

Wednesday: Literacy Activity

Thursday: Maths Activity

Key Stage 2

Primary 5

Daily Reading, Spellings and Mental Maths each night.

Monday and Wednesday: Literacy- either a phonics based or punctuation/ grammar task.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: Numeracy.

Primary 6

Monday & Wednesday - Literacy Focused task

Tuesday & Thursday - Numeracy Focused task

Tasks are based on what we are learning in class & New Wave Mental Maths.

Every evening the pupils have Literacy and Mathematics homework.

Spellings

Accelerated Reading - 15 minutes.

Mental Maths- A specific set is focused on for two week - multiplication/ division facts.

P6 children are encouraged to work towards 1000 points on Mathletics. Children must have over 350 points before they can gain access to Mathletics live - tasks are set on times tables / what we have covered in class so that the children can have a go.

Homework will be set daily and be sent home each day.

Primary 7

Monday - Thursday

Spellings

Literacy

Mathematics (Mental Maths)

Reading

Everything is given out on a Monday and returned on a Friday so children can pace themselves throughout the week.

Parents of pupils attending Newbuildings PS play an essential role in their child's homework. They should:

- Listen to their child read and sign the Reading Record book. Provide encouragement and assist where necessary. Discuss any pictures, talk about what has been read and its meaning.
- Check written work and help their child with any corrections. Insist that this work is done as neatly as possible.

Parents are asked to sign all written homework after they have checked it for content and neatness. This will indicate to both your child and the teacher that you are actively interested in your child's progress at school.

We encourage the use of online learning platforms at home.

Primary 1, Primary 2 & Primary 3: Maths Seeds and Reading Eggs

Primary 4: Reading Eggs, Accelerated Reading, and Mathletics

Primaries 5, 6: Mathletics and Accelerated Reading

Primary 7: Accelerated Reading

Parents should ensure that their children do homework at a suitable time and in a quiet place where they will not be disturbed by other children or television/computer games etc.

Parents are requested to sign all homework.

P3 and P4 (KS1) Time suggested: 30/35 minutes.

P5, P6 and P7 (KS2) Time suggested 40/45 minutes.

It is most important that, in addition to any written work which may be given, all children should spend time reading each night. Children are also encouraged to read library/Accelerated Reading books on a regular basis.

If at any time your child is having obvious difficulty or is greatly exceeding the suggested timings on a task, please indicate this to the teacher when you are signing the homework. We appreciate that in some instances this may mean returning an unfinished piece of work despite consistent effort by your child and guidance from you, the parent/guardian.

Signed: Mr P. Mackey

(Chairperson of the Board of Governors) **Date:** March 2024