SN Mhuire, Barntown

Roll No. 17913Q

Homework Policy

We in Barntown NS see homework as a valuable aspect of the learning process and a vital home school link. This current policy is a result a review of the policy to include the use of Aladdin and Dojo instead of homework journals.
It also takes into account the changes to how homework was sent out during the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 school years along with the online surveys completed by parents in November 2020, September 2021 and February 2023.
The results of all these surveys found that a slight majority of parents feel that homework is beneficial for primary school children.

Why give homework?

- To re-inforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on a weekly basis and is to be completed from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.
- In September each class teacher will send a letter home to parents/guardians, giving an outline of the type of homework children will be assigned that school year.
- Aladdin and Class Dojo are used by teachers to communicate weekly homework to parents/guardians.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat, because their class is class of the week or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.

What is the content of homework?

- In the month of September children will be assigned reading for homework. This is to help settle children back into the routine of school.
- Homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks, written tasks and active tasks that are appropriate to each class level. At times this will vary from class to class depending on their school work at particular times during the year.

- It is important to note that homework time devoted to oral, reading and learning is just as important as written work. Children often feel that reading, oral work and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.
- In the month of December there will be a focus on the Arts along with reading and in the month of June Active Tasks and reading will be assigned to children.

How much time should be spent on homework?

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters.
The time spent on homework varies for individual children but the following is a good guideline to the maximum time necessary per night, however on occasion the time required may exceed these times.

- Junior Infants/Senior Infants — No more than 15 minutes
- First/Second class — No more than 20 minutes
- Third/Fourth class — No more than 30 minutes
- Fifth /Sixth class — No more than 40 minutes

The above time should be spent actually working, it assumes that books etc. are out and children are ready to start.

How can parents support their children with homework?

- Provide a suitable place and time to do homework: setting aside a quiet time, or quiet area away from distractions like T.V. or other siblings.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Listen to reading, poetry, spelling and tables.

When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Please note homework/schoolwork is not assigned to children when absent from school.