

HOMEWORK POLICY

OF

St Oliver Plunkett's NS

Homework Policy

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Relationship to Ethos of School:

St Oliver Plunkett's NS seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential in a caring environment. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.

Aims:

- To consolidate the daily work done in the school.
- To benefit pupil learning.
- To develop study skills.
- To allow the child to work independently.
- To give feedback to the teacher.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- To prepare children for the heavier burden of homework in post primary school.
- To allow children to develop research skills.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class.
- 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 Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesdays, Thursdays .

The amount of work given is in line with the school's homework policy.

Children are given "homework off" at various times as a treat, to mark a special occasion or to acknowledge a special happening in the school calendar.

If homework is undone the class teacher shall e-mail parents to that effect.

What is the contents of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, maths tasks and learning tasks. (learning tasks can include other subject areas)
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerable from day to day. However, it should be noted that time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, pieces to be learned and maths (limited to three sums that link with maths topic being taught), jolly phonics word lists, Jolly phonics tricky words, jolly phonics sounds and letter formation in the younger classes. Written assignments will not be part of weekly homework. Thursday will be learning homework and

religion homework which may be discussion only. (This is to maintain the home/school link with religion)

- Homework will include an assignment to be uploaded to google classroom once a month, alternatively the assignment can be handed in to teacher.
- Children often feel that reading and “learning by heart” is not real homework. Parents can play an important role by listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring work is well done.

How much help should parents give?

Parents can help their children with their homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do homework.
- Preventing distractions and interruptions while they are doing their homework, e.g. other children, T.V.
- So your child gets maximum benefit from their homework, parents are asked to:
 - Check the correct homework is done.
 - Examine tables and spellings nightly.

If a child has difficulty, the parent should help the child to overcome this difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by doing the actual homework. In this instance the parent should inform the teacher of the difficulty.

- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense. It is meant to be an enjoyable experience between parent and child.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check that the correct homework is complete and then sign the homework journal nightly. The homework journal will serve as reading log and as confirmation that homework has been completed.
- Ideally all messages to the teacher should be sent to the class teacher’s school e-mail address.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, it is not always possible to check each child’s journal each day.
- As older children learn to work independently, some items are checked less often, e.g. once a week.
- Some items of class work and homework may be checked by children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a very useful part of the learning process for children.

When should parents communicate with the teacher about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot do homework because he/she does not understand some aspect.
- **If the time spent at homework is often long.**

When should homework be done?

Each family situation is different – both parents working, child minders etc., ideally homework should be done before any television is watched, soon after school, while the subject is still fresh in the child's mind.

However some children need a break before starting homework.

Homework should never be left until the morning before school.

Remember!

If homework is a stressful experience for child or parent something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the purpose.

Should this occur on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Signed :

Chairperson : _____

Date: _____

Principal: _____

Date: _____