



Homework Policy

The Aims of Homework

- To encourage pupils to develop the skills needed for independent learning.
- To consolidate, reinforce and extend the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the classroom.
- To give parents an insight into what is happening in school and to share in their child's learning.
- To develop an effective partnership between school and parents.

Organisational Issues

1. There will be an explanation of homework routines as part of the Curriculum Information provided in September for all families.
2. Homework in Holywood Primary School will normally be given each night from Monday to Thursday.
3. Each Year Group may use online platforms (e.g. Seesaw (P1- P4) and Google Classroom (P5-P7)) for parents to access and upload pupil responses. Homework booklets may also be used.
4. The duration and type of homework will depend on the age of the child and his/her ability within the classroom situation.
5. Homework is designed to be stimulating for the children and may be written, oral or investigative.
6. Homework will reflect previous class work in order to practise skills and reinforce knowledge.
7. Homework may involve research into topics already being studied in class.
8. All pupils will be given clear instructions of what homework should be completed each week and when it should be returned.
9. BUG CLUB online reading and phonic resource available to P1-P4 and P5 – P7 pupils where appropriate.
10. Online numeracy resources can to be accessed to support areas of learning. e.g. NUMBOTS (P1- P4) and TIIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS (P4-P7)
11. If the tasks are taking too long to complete, parents may endorse unfinished work as having taken the allocated time.
12. Parent-Teacher Consultations provide good opportunities to discuss what is expected from a child and also what role the parent may play in this learning experience.
13. No homework will be set during holidays.
14. No homework will be set if holidays are taken outside the official school holidays.

15. The school will keep parents informed regarding up-to-date arrangements if Home Learning is required due to schools being instructed to transfer to remote learning.
16. There may be occasions on which no homework will be set by a teacher.
17. Homework will be marked as soon as possible.
18. Teachers will give written and verbal praise for pieces of well prepared homework and will also make constructive comments on homework completed, when appropriate.
19. Teachers will inform parents if children are regularly not producing homework or if the standard of homework is unacceptable.

The Role of the Parent or Carer

Parents are expected to follow the guidelines as set out above in this policy which should support their child's development and progress.

Parents should:-

- Provide a suitable, quiet place for their child to work.
- Talk about homework and the importance of carrying out homework tasks.
- Check deadlines and help their child develop time management skills.
- Give praise for the successful completion of work.
- Sign each piece of completed work.
- Inform the class teacher of any difficulties their child is experiencing in relation to homework that cannot be resolved at home.

NI Curriculum areas consolidated during a child's time at Hollywood Primary School when completing homework will include:-

Reading

Phonics

Spellings / Tables

Literacy

Numeracy (including Mental Maths)

ICT

Topic based activities which may include investigative activities or preparation for class events

Preparation for school events e.g. Music, Drama or Assembly preparation

Spellings

When helping your child to learn their spellings we suggest that you use the Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check technique.

1. Look at the words to be learned with your child. Check that they understand what the words mean.
2. Say each word – sounding out letter names for each word in turn.
3. Cover the word.
4. Write from memory, saying the letters aloud.
5. Check the spelling, correct if necessary.
6. Reward correct spellings with words of support. If incorrect, encourage your child to try again.

Pupils also develop correct handwriting styles when practising spellings.

The importance of reading cannot be over-emphasised. Parents are asked to encourage children to read as widely and as often as possible. Library reading is just as important as following the school 'Reading Books'.

Below is an approximate recommended time that should be given to homework tasks and a list of typical activities that a child will complete for homework. Some homework activities may be completed over more than one evening. Teachers in each Year Group annually review and amend homework activities. This process includes consultation with parents. Information is relayed at to all parents in Term 1 each year. Each parent / pupil also receives written homework guidelines. Pupils who enrol during the school year also receive this information.

Class	Time each night	Activities will include....
P1	10 / 15 minutes	Guided Reading Reinforcement of words taught in school Oral development of initial sounds leading to practise letter formations throughout the year. Phonic activities Activity homework e.g. oral / practical activities
P2	20 minutes	Guided Reading Learning words and simple comprehension activities linked to book One phonic written activity completed over 3 evenings One numeracy written activity which may be completed over 3 evenings. Occasionally Literacy and Numeracy activities may be replaced with Topic Work activities. Spelling introduced in Term 2.
P3	20 / 25 minutes	Guided Reading Spelling phonics and sentence construction. Number facts Short written homework in Numeracy & Literacy which may be completed over 3 evenings
P4	25 / 30 minutes	Guided Reading Spellings including activities Number facts Mental Maths Written or learning homework (Mon - Thurs) Occasional topic based homework given over a week
P5	30 / 40 minutes	Either Guided, Independent and Factual Reading Spellings / Maths facts Mental Maths Written or learning homework (Mon - Thurs) Occasional topic based homework given over a week
P6	45 / 55 minutes	Independent / Factual Reading Mental Maths Spellings / Maths & Literacy facts Written and learning homework (Mon - Thurs) Occasional homework based on other curricular area
P7	45 / 55 minutes	Independent Reading / Factual Reading from Term 2 Mental Maths Spellings / vocabulary Written and learning homework (Mon - Thurs) Occasional homework based on other curricular area

Implementation: Term 2 2010 Reviewed: September 2011, 2017, 2020, 2022
Next review: 2025 -2026