

BELLAGHY PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

In Bellaghy Primary School, we see immense value in homework. A well-planned homework will:

- Revise, reinforce and extend work done in school
- Develop good work habits
- Allow the teacher to see how child copes with activity independently
- Strengthen link between home and school
- Allow parent to engage in child's education
- Allow parent to see progression
- Allow parent to work with child in supportive role
- Give an opportunity for praise and encouragement by both teacher and parent

ROLE OF TEACHER

- Plan and prepare the homework
- Explain the homework
- P1-P3 – Write down homework in Reading Record Books
- Mark the homework (Sometimes may be done by Classroom Assistant), offering feed-back, praise and encouragement

ROLE OF PARENT

- Establish good habits of timing and location (not in front of TV)
- Refer to Homework Diary/Reading Record Book to ascertain what homework is
- Work with child offering support where necessary
- Ensure child understands what he/she is doing, if not let teacher know
- Offer praise and encouragement
- Don't do the homework for your child
- Sign homework to indicate that you are satisfied with your child's efforts
- Parent of P1-3 child – make comment on your child's reading or indeed any other aspect of his/her homework in Reading Record book

ROLE OF CHILD

- Establish good habits of timing and location
- P4-P7 Refer to Homework Diary/Reading Record Book to ascertain what homework is
- Do your best, do your own work
- P4-P7 children – make a comment about what you have read
- Make sure homework is complete and returned to teacher on time
- If homework is not complete, be prepared to complete it at an alternative time at teacher’s discretion

<i>Class</i>	<i>Homework</i>	<i>Duration</i>
P1	Reading every night Mon – Thurs, word, letter and sound recognition After Christmas – Two additional homeworks per week – written or practical	15 mins
P2	Reading every night Mon – Thurs, word recognition or word related activity, two additional homeworks per week – written or practical After Hallowe’en – Spellings and spelling related activity	20 mins
P3	Reading, Mental Maths, Spellings (12/week) every night Mon – Thurs, four additional homeworks per week – written or practical End of month spelling test	30 mins
P4	Reading, Mental Maths, Spellings (12 or 15/week) every night Mon – Thurs, four additional homeworks per week – written or practical End of month spelling test	30 mins
P5	Novel reading, Mental Maths, Spellings (45/week) every night Mon – Thurs, four or five additional homeworks per week – written or practical Reading encouraged at the weekend, end of month spelling test	1 hour
P6	Novel reading, Mental Maths, Spellings (45/week) every night Mon – Thurs, weekly meanings and facts, four or five additional homeworks per week – written or practical Reading encouraged at the weekend, end of month spelling test	1 hour
P7	Novel reading every night Mon – Thurs, Mental Maths, Spellings (40/week) four or five additional homeworks per week – written or practical Reading encouraged at the weekend, end of month spelling test	1 hour

PLEASE NOTE

- Children on S.E.N. register – homework may vary to suit individual needs
- On occasions and at teacher’s discretion, there may be no homework issued (eg during preparation for concert, assessment week or as a special treat!)

READING AT HOME

Research indicates that if children are read to at an early age, this will foster an interest in reading and books. At our school, we can not over emphasise the importance of reading. Reading in fact forms the foundation for learning and an ability to read will obviously enhance your child's progress in all other subject areas. With this in mind, we would encourage reading at every opportunity, not only the assigned reading homework, but encourage your child to read other material – library books, magazines, comics, annuals, books you have at home etc. The more practice your child gets, the more progress he/she will make.

Please note that your child's teacher may assign eg pages 1-8 for tonight's homework and your child may wish to read the whole book. This is fine but remember reading is more than just reciting the words on the pages, reading is also understanding what is being read, reading fluently and with expression. We assign a limited number of pages because in class, we discuss the story at length, look at the illustrations, look at particular words, punctuation etc – we aim to get a lot out of those eight pages!

Also please remember, your child's reading homework will have been prepared in class so he/she should not be reading an unseen passage.

Your child may be given additional/supplementary reading material at any time during the year. This ensures that your child (particularly in Key Stage One):

- does not get 'hooked on' the specific type of language of one reading scheme
- gets plenty of practice at reading material suited to his/her ability and therefore his/her reading skills are extended

SPELLINGS

Children should be encouraged to write their spellings out three times. We encourage the LOOK, COVER, WRITE and CHECK method.

Friday is reserved for a weekly spelling test and Thursday night for revision of the week's words. It is therefore not necessary to write the words out again on a Thursday night.

In school, all mistakes are corrected and written out five times before re-resting.

MENTAL MATHS

Over the last few years, there has been an increased emphasis on Mental Maths and we have been teaching mental strategies to assist your child calculate simple operations in a logical and efficient way. All children from P3-P7 have a Table Timer to complete every night Mon –Thurs in an effort to develop his/her mental agility.

POLICY – Written Jan 07 MLR