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HOMEWORK POLICY

BROADMEADOW COMMUNITY

NATIONAL SCHOOL



2022/2023

Principal: Miss J. Robinson

The Principal of Miss Jennifer Robinson is responsible for the implementation of this Homework Policy.

Introduction

In Broadmeadow Community National School we believe that homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation, responsibility and lifelong learning. Broadmeadow CNS in consultation with the school principal, have drafted the following policy for homework in our school.

As a school we regard homework as important for the following reasons:

- It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class.
- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It provides a link between the teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.
- It gives pupils an opportunity for independent learning and study.
- It allows the teacher to have a clearer understanding of a child's ability.

Roles and Responsibilities

Guidelines for Teachers:

- Homework is given to consolidate work being done in class. Homework should never be given unless the teacher has thoroughly prepared and explained what is to be done.
- Homework must be consistent, a small amount given each night to help consolidate class learning. (See time allocation per year group)
- In September at the 'General Classroom Meetings' for parents, teachers will explain homework procedures in detail for that particular year group.
- Teachers will check that homework is being done and will give extra help where difficulties occur.
- It is very important that homework, where necessary is differentiated. This will be done in conjunction with the parent.
- Teachers must keep a record of complete/incomplete homework. This record will show teachers if a child's homework is regularly incomplete and teachers then need to speak with parents to find a resolution to this problem.
- Teachers should ensure that homework is completed to a high standard; copybooks ruled, dated and any written activities should be carefully and neatly completed. It is the duty of the class teacher to monitor this and put in place appropriate sanctions.
- Careless homework should never be accepted.
- At every opportunity teacher should encourage and praise the children's efforts and provide oral feedback or written if needed.

Guidelines for Parents:

- Establish a set routine and time for the child to do his/her homework after school, in a quiet place free from distractions. Some children might need a short break when they arrive home from school before starting homework.
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school.
- Supervise children's homework, checking and signing it on completion, allow the child to complete the work alone.
- Help and encourage your child but avoid doing the homework exercises for them.
- Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances or make notes if the child has found this difficult/easy etc.
- It is important for parents to know that homework is always based on work done in class. Parents must speak with their child's class teacher if there is difficulty in completing homework.
- Parents should follow the recommended time guidelines for completion of homework (see time duration paragraph). Children should not spend more than their allocated time completing homework. Parents need to talk to their child's teacher if there is a time issue as regards homework. Older children can have this conversation with their teacher.

Remember!

If homework is a stressful experience between a parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher to find a resolution to this issue.

Pupils should:

- Junior Infants-1st Class- Take homework file home from the basket, place into the basket daily.
- Enter homework accurately in homework diary (2nd Class onwards)
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present all work neatly including written work, sums, colouring etc.

Duration of Homework:

Junior Infants- 15 minutes (Monday-Thursday)

Senior Infants- 20 minutes (Monday-Thursday)

1st/2nd Class- 25 minutes (Monday-Thursday)

3rd/4th Class- 30 minutes (Monday-Thursday)

5th/6th Class- 40 minutes (Monday-Thursday)

Homework Content

Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday, (September-June) leaving the weekend free. The above times are guidelines; some children may complete the work in less time. However, if a child is taking more than the guideline time both the teacher and parent will discuss this and find a resolution. Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given “homework off” as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

Marking:

In the junior classes, the work will be dated once collected and any simple comments or use of marking stamps that the children can understand will be used.

Reading

At each class level pupils are assigned reading from their class reader. Additional reading at home is also encouraged and promoted throughout the school. Children have access to additional reading material from the school library and mobile library. Teachers help pupils to choose books that are at a suitable reading level and this is monitored.

Junior Infants:

- Teachers decide upon homework content at the beginning of each term.
- It is very important that homework, where necessary is differentiated. Children need to be able to complete their homework within the appropriate time limit and without undue stress. Therefore it is the teacher’s duty to differentiate homework for individual children.
- Homework will not begin in Junior Infants for at least the first 4 weeks of school.
- Homework is assigned to the pupils on a Monday and brought back on a Friday. An explanatory sheet is included with the homework each Monday explaining to parents what is expected.
- Homework will be completed in a mix of workbooks, crafts, worksheets and online activities.
- Use of iPads and online resources- apps will be provided/websites will be provided.
- Reading books will be changed on a Friday where the teacher feels the need after listening to the child.
- Junior Infant parents are also encouraged to read with their children each night. This is discussed at the general parent classroom meetings in September.

Monitoring and Sanctions

- Teachers will correct homework when files are collected on a Friday. Date stamps and reward stamps will be used and oral comments and praise provided to children in the Junior end of the school.
- If homework is not completed, and in the absence of a note from parents, the pupil will be instructed to complete the homework that evening. A note will be written in the homework diary to notify parents of this or a conversation may be had.
- If homework is not completed over a number of days, and in the absence of a note from parents, an appointment will be made by the class teacher to talk to the pupil's parents.
- If a child in Junior classes continues to miss homework and no valid reason is modelled, golden time/rewards will be removed.
- Teachers will use their discretion as regards completion of homework in sensitive family situations such as bereavement, homelessness, separation etc.
- It is important that teachers keep records of homework completed and incomplete homework. This can be shown at parent teacher meetings.
- It is the responsibility of the class teacher to place emphasis on the importance of homework. Rewards such as stickers, stamps etc. can be given for homework well done or good efforts made.
- An emphasis on the importance of completing homework will begin as soon as the children begin in Broadmeadow CNS.

Ratified: Brigid Manton 25/10/22 (Acting Chair)

Jennifer Robinson 25/10/22