



Parents as Partners 'HOMEWORK'



At Kinnaird Primary School our aims for homework are:

- To provide an opportunity to involve parents in their child's learning.
- To reinforce and enhance children's classroom learning.
- To help children develop good work and study habits.

What kind of tasks will be set?

- From January 2017 teachers will set two homework tasks each week (usually a reading task and one other) which can be completed within the time allocation.
- Over a term, homework tasks covering a variety of curricular areas will be set.
- The tasks which are set will directly reflect the work being undertaken in class at the time.
- Some tasks will be open- ended to allow children to complete them in a way which is meaningful to them, as there are many different ways to demonstrate understanding. Your child may wish to draw a picture/ make a diagram, write sentences/ letter/story poem, make a model or research using books or the internet.
- Any open- ended tasks will be accompanied by clear criteria of what the teacher is looking for. If these criteria have been met then the task has been successfully completed.
- Approximately once each term there may be an extended homework task (e.g. a design style project) which lasts for more than a week and replaces other homework tasks. Again success criteria will be shared with parents.

When will homework be sent home?

Homework is set weekly to enable it to be managed around busy family life. It will be usually be issued on Monday to be returned the following Monday. It should be able to be completed on **four nights** but if parents choose, it can be completed at the weekend instead.

How long should my child be spending on homework?

We set homework on a weekly basis to enable children and parents to manage this around busy family life in a way which best meet their needs. Teachers set homework tasks equivalent to the following approximate timings:

Primary 1 and 2	10 minutes per night
Primary 3 & 4	15 minutes per night
Primary 5	20 minutes per night
Primary 6 & 7	30 minutes per night



Is there any additional homework I could do with my child?

In our recent survey, 88% of parents who responded were in agreement with our plans to adapt homework and 3% wanted no homework at all. However 8% of parents did not want any reduction in the number of homework tasks. For this reason we will build up a list of links to educational websites with relevant activities and put these in the Parents' section of the Kinnaird School website. On a termly basis teachers will upload their class curriculum overview plan onto class pages on the school website. These include information on how parents can support their child's learning at home. Any additional activities should not be returned to school and will not be assessed by the class teacher.

What does homework look like?

From January 2017 we will no longer call the homework jotter a P.L.A.Y book, simply a homework jotter. Each week the task and learning targets will be set out. Each child will have two homework jotters which will go home on alternate weeks. This will allow teachers time to build on the children's homework in the class learning and to provide brief written feedback for all children.

How does the teacher assess homework?

An important feature of the school's approach to homework is self and peer assessment. When children bring their homework back to school they will spend some time sharing what they have done with other members of the class. Class teachers will use this time to reinforce the learning which has taken place and highlight the range of ways the task has been tackled. This enables children to demonstrate and extend their understanding. Homework will be assessed against the criteria which was set out and the teacher will provide brief formative feedback for each child (i.e. highlighting an aspect which has been done well and an area for development).



What happens when there is a long weekend or in-service days?

Teachers will reduce the amount of homework when there is a short week so that the time allowance remains proportionate to the days available.

Homework is not usually set during the week before Christmas or the last week of the summer term. Primary 1 pupils start receiving homework from their second full-time week in school.

What should parents do if they're unsure about the homework set?

The homework tasks set will be discussed in detail with the children and there will be clear success criteria set out for each task. If your child is still unsure then please contact his/her teacher who will be happy to offer some advice. We will provide a workshop session about homework for new parents at the start of each school session.



We will review this revised policy in June 2017.