

Homework Policy St.Andrew's National School, Lucan

Introductory Statement

Homework provides the children with the opportunity of revisiting learning experiences encountered during the school day and of practising the skills and concepts associated with those learning experiences. In the senior classes some homework is designed to challenge the children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity. The children are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability – no more, no less.

Homework Aims

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skills and to develop a work ethic

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Homework will be given on Fridays in all classes if homework has been neglected during the week
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.
- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not completed their homework, has not made a suitable effort or has presented untidy work.
- After Christmas, Easter and Halloween break no written homework is set for the first day.

Homework Meetings

During the first/second week in September parents of children in Senior Infants and First class are given the opportunity to come into school to discuss the homework and what expectations the teacher has for the coming year. These meetings are usually held at 8:35am in the hall or classrooms. Junior Infant homework meeting is held in October. Classes Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth will be given a homework information sheet and Homework Contract at the beginning of the school year.

How Much Time should be spent?

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year.

Junior and Senior Infants: 10 – 20min

1st and 2nd Class: 20 – 30mins

3rd and 4th Class: 30 – 45mins

5th and 6th Class 45mins - 1hour.

What is the content of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
 - This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
 - Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, (after Halloween) tables, written work, pieces to be learned by rote, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
 - Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.
 - Homework Notebooks and written homework are to be signed by parent. Homework not done (reason to be signed by parent also). If homework not done or signed by parent teacher will write note home.
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- **The following is an outline of homework to be given in each of the classes.**
 1. Junior Infants are given letter sounds and actions to practise until after the Halloween Mid Term Break. After this they will have written homework also.
 2. In the Senior Infant classroom there is reading, spellings (after Halloween) and written homework set Monday to Thursday.
 3. 1st class: Maths or English homework on alternate days. Reading record book every day. English spellings and tables every day
 4. 2nd class: Maths and written homework on alternate days. Written homework is mostly English and is sometimes History or Geography. English/Irish spellings and tables every day. Reading record book every day.
 5. 3rd Class: Maths and English on alternate days. Tables every day. English and Irish Spellings every day. Reading Diary every day. Other subjects will be given from time to time.
 6. 4th Class: Maths homework plus another written exercise is given every day. Spellings, reading diary, recorder practice every day. Learning each week taken from a variety of; poems Irish verbs, tables, Geography, History etc.
 7. 5th Class: Maths homework plus one or two written exercises are given every day. Spellings, reading diary and recorder practice every day. Learning each week taken from a variety of: poems, Irish verbs, tables, Geography, History etc.
 8. 6th Class: Maths written homework every day plus written homework from English/Irish/History or Geography every day. Irish/ English spellings and tables will be recorded every day.

We have a policy of learning tables by rote. – Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division

Rev. J. Scott Peoples

Chairman, Board of Management

Padraic Byrne

Principal

St Andrew's NS Lucan

HOMEWORK CONTRACT

All written and learning homework will be supervised and checked by an adult daily.

Written homework and homework notebook will be signed by an adult daily. If homework is not completed parent/guardian will give written explanation to the class teacher. If written explanation is not received by class teacher a note will be sent home. This note will require signature of parent/guardian and returned to class teacher the following day. If note is not signed parents/guardians will be contacted and a meeting will be arranged.

Signature

Parents/Guardians _____ *Date:* _____

Padraic Byrne, Principal

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