



HOLY FAMILY JUNIOR NATIONAL SCHOOL

River Valley, Swords, Co Dublin.

Principal: Mr M Cunningham
Deputy Principal: Mr D Power
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HOMEWORK POLICY

The purposes of homework are:

1. To create an opportunity for linking of home and school in a meaningful way,
2. To encourage parent's role in education and allow assessment of child's progress,
3. To assist in cultivating good work habits in the child,
4. To consolidate the work of the classroom

The amount of homework given is relative to the class level. Children will be given regular exercises relative to their ability at the discretion of the teacher. Activities are structured to suit the stages of development of the children, and it is important that you do not push your child to undertake a task for which they are not read. We ask that parents help their children develop good habits by having a regular place and time for homework, by taking an interest in the homework tasks, and by encouraging and praising them while the work is being done.

In Junior Infants, the "Jolly Phonics Programme" is introduced. This programme is central to developing reading skills, and parents have a vital role to play here. Regularly the children will take home "Jolly Phonic" images and sounds and songs that accompany these images. You as parents will be asked to revise these sounds and songs with your children on a daily basis. There is an emphasis on oral language in the Infant classes, and you can help your children in this regard by: listening as they relate the events of the day; repeat rhymes and songs; reads and by giving praise and encouragement.

There is a greater emphasis on written tasks in First and Second classes, with the homework recorded in the homework journal. The work given will be based on that already covered by the teacher in the class, and the children should be able to complete each task.

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday

Homework will be selected from the following

- Spellings
- Tables
- Reading (aloud for 10 minutes approx)
- Maths
- Library Book, looking at, reading, discussing picture and story.
- Writing sentences or headlines
- Work on and/or complete worksheets, workbooks.
- Work on projects (First / Second Class)
- Work from Learning Support/Resource Teachers (if applicable)

How much (time) homework?

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. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants	0 - 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
First Standard	Up to 30 minutes
Second Standard	Up to 40 minutes

How much help should parents give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
 - Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
 - To prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. The parent should tell the teacher so the problem can be resolved.
- Shared reading (Bookworm Club/Library books) is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it's not enjoyable, shared reading should not be done.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check a child's homework every evening and sign the journal if in older classes.
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages available at the end of the journal)
- Please check that your child records homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed

When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

Remember

If homework is a stressful experience between 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.

Specific Objectives for Junior Infant Homework

Things your child should be able to do by the time they finish Junior Infants

- Should be left to the classroom door
- Do/undo buttons, toggles and Velcro fastenings, zips
- Look after all their own property, i.e. coats, bags, hats, scarves, lunch etc
- Open and shut schoolbags, lunchboxes and drink beakers
- Handle drink containers/cartons without frequent spilling
- Use a scissors
- Put litter into the bin
- Articulate any requests, concerns, messages, items of news, etc to the teacher.
- Use the toilet correctly/at appropriate time, personal hygiene.
- Knows his/her own name and parents/minders name, teacher's name and room number.
- Can put on own cap, jumper, tracksuit top without help
- Develop social skills i.e. sharing, taking turns etc.

Things your child should know by the time they finish Junior Infants

- Basic manners i.e. Please, Thank you etc.
- Correct grip for holding a writing instrument
- Read their own Christian name and write it correctly using 1 capital letter and subsequent lower case letters.
- Be interested in the printed word, can observe words in their environment, recognise individual letters and read some simple basic words and phrases.
- Recognise and name all the letters of the alphabet
- Enjoy looking at books and enjoy being read to.
- Be familiar with vocabulary introduced in the Wonderland Literacy Programme:

The Picnic
GG is Too Big!
Where Can GG Sit?

- Recognise all basic shapes and colours
- Count to 10 (at least) and can count out objects up to 10
- Share with their parents the songs, stories, prayers and activities of the Religion programme
- Nursery Rhymes
- Know Jolly Phonic sounds, songs and actions.

Specific Objectives for Senior Infant Homework

Things your child should be able to do by the time they finish Senior Infants

- Line up correctly in the yard every morning
- Do/undo zips and other fastening, laces etc
- Tie a simple knot
- Look after own clothes and belongings at school
- Open and handle all lunch packaging
- Mop up a small spill with kitchen paper
- Keep their schoolbag in good order.

Things your child should know by the time they finish Senior Infants

- Enjoy being read to, enjoy books and can make a good attempt to read books of a suitable level for their age, ability and stage of development.
- Be familiar with vocabulary introduced in the Wonderland Literacy Programme:
 - Ella Goes to the Airport,
 - The Wrong Car,
 - Globby Helps Out,
 - The Beach House.
- Know all the letters of the alphabet in correct sequence and know the phonetic sounds these letters make.
- Can form all lower case letters correctly, recognise the capital letters and can write simple sentences of their own (with help for spellings)
- Write their Christian name and surname with correct punctuation
- Recognise all the numbers to 20, can say them in sequence and can form them correctly.
- Master the skills of simple addition (totals up to 10) and simple subtraction (differences of up to 9).
- Recognise the basic coins of our currency, i.e., 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, and 20c.

- Share with their parents the prayers, songs, stories and activities on the Religion programme.

Specific Objectives for First Standard Homework

Things your child should be able to do by the time they finish First Standard

- Do/undo all clothing fastening
- Tie a bow knot and a double bow knot/laces
- Are responsibly able to care for own belongings in school
- Can take down homework
- Can complete all homework assignments
- Can keep own schoolbag, desk and all copybooks orderly and tidy

Things your child should know by the time they finish First Standard

- Enjoy books, enjoy being read to and can read books by themselves of a level suitable to their age, interest, ability and development
- Be familiar with vocabulary introduced in the Wonderland Literacy Programme:
 - Looking After Zara
 - The New Suit
 - Dance Shoes for GG
- Can form all letters, lower case and capitals, correctly and can write simple sentences of their own with correct punctuation, i.e. a capital letter and a full stop, but making allowances for spellings beyond their range
- Have grasped the basics of spellings and can successfully spell most of the words assigned to them in First class
- Recognise all the numbers to 100 and can write them
- Have mastered addition (up to a total of 99) and can do simple subtraction (up to differences of 20)
- Can recognise all the coins in our currency and can handle simple transactions
- Know all their addition tables, i.e. +1 to +10
- Recognise and name basic 2D and 3D shapes
- Share the prayers, songs, stories and activities from school with their parents

Specific Objectives for Second Standard Homework

Things your child should be able to do by the time they finish Second Standard

- Do/undo all clothing fastening
- Tie a bow knot and a double bow knot/laces
- Are responsibly able to care for own belongings in school
- Can take down homework
- Can complete all homework assignments
- Can keep own schoolbag, desk and all copybooks orderly and tidy

Things your child should know by the time they finish Second Standard

- Own name, address and telephone number and minder's name
- Homework: reading, spellings, tables, writing, and/or maths
- Be familiar with vocabulary introduced in the Wonderland Literacy Programme:

The Treasure Hunt
GG's New Job
A Surprise for Feena

- Recognise and recite in sequence up to 100
- Count in 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 10s,
- Addition to 999
- + and – tables up to 10
- Subtraction with re-grouping to 999
- Addition with re-grouping to 999

Parents are asked to supervise homework and sign daily.

This policy will be reviewed as and when necessary.

Signed: _____

Mrs. Margaret O Neill, (Chairperson)
Board of Management, Holy Family J.N.S.

Dated: _____