Why do we have homework in Chatelherault Primary?

Children who do homework regularly throughout their time at school benefit from the equivalent of roughly an extra year’s schooling. Parents, carers and other family members can and do make a real difference to children’s education. When families and school work together, children do better. In Chatelherault we are keen to build on the strong partnership we have between home and school and wish to further encourage this through our Homework Guidelines.

Homework helps your child to:
- Learn how to organise and manage their own time
- Take more responsibility for their own learning
- Practise and build on what they have learned at school
- Develop confidence to deal with frustrations, overcome difficulties and solve problems
- Learn and work independently in the future.

Homework helps parents/carers to:
- Be aware of the content of work being covered in school
- Be involved in their child’s learning
- Highlight any strengths, interests and areas for possible further development

Homework helps teachers to:
- Check children’s understanding of class work.
- Keep track of children’s progress
- Provide opportunities to extend children’s learning experiences

Homework Activities

Homework needs to be worthwhile and meaningful to allow children to benefit fully from it.

Homework activities need to be:
- Interesting and set at the right level
- Varied, covering a range of curricular areas
- Explained clearly so that children understand what is expected of them and timescale for completion.
- Given with an awareness of pressures and responsibilities pupils might have
- Set within realistic deadlines
- Feedback which gives recognition for effort and work well done

Within Chatelherault we plan to have two main types of homework
- One to include regular, ongoing activities which reinforce or develop skills and knowledge developed in school e.g. reading, maths task, spelling which will be given throughout the week.
- More open ended type tasks with flexibility for amount of input involved in the development e.g. work on space craft could have options of draw/ build/research.

Children who are absent due to holidays during term time will not normally be given activities to take with them.

How long should be spent on homework?

While the time each child will spend on homework may vary due to individual interests, the following provides a general guide of how long children should spend on home tasks within the school week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.1-3</td>
<td>Up to 15 minutes each night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.4-5</td>
<td>15-20 minutes each night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.6-7</td>
<td>20-30 minutes each night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Homework may be given with inbuilt flexibility depending on the task e.g. task set on a Wednesday for the following Tuesday; homework given at the beginning of the week to be completed for the end of the week.
Class teachers will update their class page on the school website, at the beginning of each session to outline the class pattern for homework. Where this changes during the session, staff are responsible for updating parents/carers.
For the younger classes, class teachers may produce a sheet for inclusion in the diaries to reduce the amount of teacher time recording information into the diaries.

Home Link Diary

To help to ensure good partnerships between home and school, each pupil, P.1-7, will have a homework diary. Within the diary there is:
- A personal section at the front for children to complete.
- A weekly pages section where a brief outline of tasks to be completed should be recorded by the pupil.
- A section on the right side for staff/parents comments. Children will be encouraged to put their diary out for adult to see if it contains comments.
- Shine at Chatelherault, our whole school promoting positive behaviour approach is recorded on a Friday. A sticker is awarded to each child … Green, Yellow or Red. Please take time to celebrate when your child has had a great week in school.

Roles and Responsibilities

We all have an important part to play to make sure that homework is as valuable as possible:

The teacher’s role is …
  - to set homework which is interesting and at the right level and to clearly explain the purpose of the homework to pupils
  - to keep aware of other pressures and responsibilities pupils might have and to set realistic deadlines
to check on homework and give feedback that gives recognition for effort and work well done.
to implement a system to ensure that children’s diaries are checked on a daily basis.

The pupil’s role is …
  - to keep a note of what is required and when it is due
  - to plan ahead and make the time to do the homework and hand it in on time
  - to look for help when unclear or unable to meet a challenge
  - to encourage a parent/carer to sign the homework diary

The parent’s role is...
  - to consider where, when and how their child does homework
  - to talk with their child about what they are learning and to listen to worries or concerns
  - to get in touch with the school if they have concerns
  - to ensure that the homework diary is signed to validate completion of set activities

Ideas to further support in out of school learning

- Useful links and contacts can be accessed through the school’s own website: [www.chatelherault-pri.slanark.sch.uk](http://www.chatelherault-pri.slanark.sch.uk).
- The school will begin to build a bank of help sheets to help parents to support their child’s learning. These help sheets will be accessed via website.
- The school will continue to run workshop sessions for parents to inform them of school developments and ways of supporting their child’s learning.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of our homework guidelines or any issues related to specific homework tasks, this should be done by contacting the head teacher.