

# CAPPATAGGLE N.S.

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## **Homework Policy**

In light of Covid 19 and HSE guidelines all staff met to review our approach to Homework and how best to deliver it during the Pandemic. We need to limit the transfer of items between home and school and our policy is drawn up with this in mind.

### **Why give homework?**

- To practice the essential skill of reading. It benefits all aspects of a child's learning.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child and children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

### **How is Homework given?**

- Homework will be sent in the child's homework folder on a Monday. This includes any physical sheets that may be needed.
- No sheets should be returned to school for marking. Any activity that you would like assessed should be uploaded to your child's Seesaw account where the Class Teacher will mark it.
- This can be in the form of a photo of the work completed or a video of their reading, for example. The Seesaw app is compatible with all smartphones and can be used on tablet, laptop or desktop.
- A useful video for parents is available at: <https://youtu.be/W9FyB1SCbeM>

### **How often is homework given?**

- Homework is given on Monday to be returned by Thursday. It can however be completed whenever convenient during the week.
- Homework will begin after the Halloween Mid-Term.

### **What is the content of homework?**

- Homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, phonics/spelling tasks, Mental Maths/tables, and occasional written tasks.
- Please note that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

### **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 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. In this case the parent should email the teacher explaining the problem.
- Shared reading 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.
- Parents can self-assess Mental Maths homework with your child. The answer key will be supplied to parents. There is no need to upload Mental Maths to Seesaw but do let your teacher know if there are specific questions your child finds difficult. This can then be a teaching point for maths in class.

#### **How often should parents monitor homework?**

- Parents should check their child's homework on Monday to establish what is to be completed in the week. It will usually be in a similar format.
- Check that your child has uploaded anything they would like assessed to Seesaw. Do also do this with older children – don't assume it is being done.
- Written messages to your child's teacher about homework should be emailed. We will check these messages regularly.

#### **How often do teachers monitor homework?**

- Teachers will check the homework before the following Monday.
- Teachers may however check homework as it is added to the child's Seesaw account during the week.
- Teachers will use this to give class feedback and monitor learning.

#### **When should homework be done?**

- Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, etc. Homework should be completed at a time that suits you and your family.
- Homework, however, should never be left until morning time before school.
- Homework activities are suggested and not compulsory. Do not feel under any pressure to complete homework.

This policy will be reviewed at the end of the 2020/21 school year. It was ratified by the Board of Management on 20/08/2020.

Michael Hannon

Chairperson, Board of Management

Shane Dervan

Principal