

## *Tús maith, leath na h-oibre*

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*Theme for School Year 2020 – 2021*  
**“Childhood is a journey, not a race”**

**Principal: Richella Kelly Deputy Principal: Siobhán Finnegan McElgunn**

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Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September

### **Re: Homework**

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Earlier this month I asked parents to share their thoughts on homework with me during the month of September. To date three parents have (two via e-mail and one via a telephone conversation). The three parents were in favour of no homework for the school year. We have 140 families in the school this year.

Teachers have given careful considered to homework over the past number of weeks and feel it is essential to consolidate work completed in class. Teachers also feel that without homework some pupils might not catch up on missed learning. Planning, designing, assigning and correcting homework is extra work for teachers. Oral work, reading, rhymes, letters, spellings and tables are very important aspects of homework and need to be given quality time at home. Homework is not a punishment.

From Monday next, **5<sup>th</sup> October all teachers will start assigning homework. Reading, (words, letters), spellings and tables** will be an important part of this homework. There will be written aspects to be completed also. Most teachers will give out a **Homework Pack** on a Monday containing all the homework to be completed for the week. The pack may contain readers, workbooks, worksheets and copies for written work. The Homework Packs should be returned to the school on a Friday morning. The teacher will correct the homework over the weekend and have the next homework pack ready for the following Monday morning. Some items may need to be returned the following day. The class teacher will specify this in advance. Teachers may also use **Seesaw** to assign homework activities.

It may take time to re-establish a **good homework routine** with your child. Ideally homework should be completed as early as possible in the evening (before extra-curricular activities) before your child gets tired. Please provide a distraction free environment (no TV/ Radio etc). While a computer, laptop or tablet may be needed from time to time it's unlikely that all homework will be screen based. Perhaps start with the least favourite item of homework and get it over first so your child can look forward to other activities.

Teachers will use the school **Homework Policy** as a guide when assigning homework activities. Homework activities will be differentiated to cater for individual pupils learning abilities and needs so pupils in a class may get different homework. Every child is different and it will take some children longer to complete some activities. As a general guide it may take pupils in Junior Infants 15 minutes to complete homework, 20 minutes for pupils in Senior Infants, 25 minutes for pupils in

First Class, 30 minutes for pupils in Second class, 40 to 45 minutes for pupils in Third and Fourth class and 60 to 90 minutes for pupils in Fifth and Sixth class. The school homework policy is available on the school website under the policies tab.

You will be consulted when the Homework Policy is under review.

Yours sincerely,

*Richella Kelly*

Richella Kelly,  
Principal.