

MONASTERY NATIONAL SCHOOL

Principal: Jim Mc Gee
Deputy Principal: Dermot McCreanor
Roll Number: 17124M
Telephone: 041-6853641
Fax: 041-6860051
Email: officeardeemns@gmail.com
Website: www.monasterynsardee.ie



SCOIL NA MAINISTREACH

Príomhoide: Séamas Mac Aoidh
Leas Phríomhoide: Diarmaid Mac Thréinfhir
Uimhir Rolla: 17124M
Fón: 041-6853641
Facs: 041-6860051
Ríomhphost: officeardeemns@gmail.com
Suíomh: www.monasterynsardee.ie

Monastery NS Homework Policy

Homework is given;

- * 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 develop a work ethic.

Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It has a purpose, usually to reinforce work already done in class. Time should be taken in class to prepare the homework. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity. Teachers may differentiate in the homework given to some children and they may receive different and/or less homework than their class peers. This may happen daily or occasionally at the discretion of the class teacher. Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability - no more, no less.

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:

- if homework has been neglected during the week
- in senior classes some project work may be undertaken at weekends.

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 or effort.

Extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

Homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.

It should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. According to the class level, homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class. 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.

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- preventing 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. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and is meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. Class teachers will issue guidelines to parents to help achieve this.

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 as to the amount of time to be spent at all homework:

- Junior Infants – approximately 10 minutes.
- Senior Infants – approximately 20 minutes.
- 1st Class – approximately 30 minutes.
- 2nd Class – approximately 35 minutes.
- 3rd Class – approximately 40 minutes.
- 4th Class – approximately 45 minutes.
- 5th Class – approximately 50 minutes.
- 6th Class – approximately 1 hour.

This should include reading, oral and written work.

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However, children in senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

All pupils in 1st - 6th classes must have a school journal. Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening. The teacher should check journals regularly.

- 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.
- Each pupil should record his homework neatly in the correct page and tick each item of homework when completed.

Ideally teachers will check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per week. Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

Parents should communicate with the teachers about homework

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

This policy was reviewed and adopted by Monastery NS Board of Management on _____

Signed by _____ Chairperson, Board of Management.