



LORETO PREPARATORY SCHOOL
Dunham Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4GZ
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Registered Charity No. 250607

HOMework POLICY

Mission Statement

At Loreto Preparatory School
We are eager and inspired to do our best,
Meeting the challenges and opportunities of a changing world
With love in our hearts.

We are called to be joyful and prayerful,
Living the Gospel and the Catholic faith
And celebrating the values of Mary Ward
With our parents and the whole Loreto family.

Women in time to come will do much.
Mary Ward

This policy has been written with regard to and in the spirit of our school aims, in particular to enable children:

'To reach their full potential in all aspects of the curriculum.'
'To have a thirst for lifelong learning.'

This policy applies to the whole school, including the Early Years Foundation Stage.

The Value of Homework

In Loreto Preparatory School, homework is an integral part of the curriculum and an important discipline.

Homework can:

- enable pupils to make more rapid progress in learning
- enable pupils to develop the practice of working on their own, a skill which will enhance their learning, especially in secondary education
- enable pupils to practise the skills taught in the classroom
- enable pupils to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom
- give parents an understanding and knowledge of the work taught in the classroom
- give opportunities for long term research

Guidelines for Teachers

In Prep 1 homework is gradually introduced over the year. From Prep 2 onwards, homework is set by the class teacher each night.

In Prep 1 and Prep 2, homework is usually 20 minutes each night. In Prep 3 this increases to 20 -30 minutes.

In the Junior department, it increases to approximately 30 minutes for Prep 4, and 30-40 minutes for Prep 5. Homework for Preps 6 and 7 will normally take between 45 minutes and 1 hour to complete.

Each class teacher will write a homework schedule at the beginning of the school year and this will be given to parents.

Homework is based on the core subjects of English and Mathematics. Non Verbal Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning or simple research may be given as homework.

The teacher will ensure that:

- homework is directly related to the current topics being taught in the class
- homework is supported by classroom practice and learning
- homework is marked as an integral part of our assessment and marking policy
- homework is marked and returned to the pupils as soon as possible whilst the exercise is still fresh in the pupil's mind

Homework should be achievable and should:

- be clearly understood by both pupil and parent;
- be achievable within the set timescale;
- not require unreasonable resources;
- be timetabled so that parents are aware of homework days. (A copy of each schedule is attached to this policy as an appendix.)

Pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities

Appropriate support is given to children with special educational needs or disabilities. The staff are made aware of these children through the SEND register.

Guidelines for Parents

The co-operation of parents is essential for homework to be of maximum value.

Parents can support their child by:

- ensuring the children have the right environment for study, i.e. a quiet atmosphere, away from television, computers (except for research), food, younger brothers and sisters and animals;
- ensuring the work is completed early in the evening so that it is done while the work is still fresh in the child's mind;
- working with their child on the mental mathematics set each night for children in Prep 2 to Prep 5;
- checking that homework has been done in line with the homework schedule and to sign to that effect in the homework diary or reading record;
- writing a letter if for some reason a child has been unable to do the homework;
- ensuring that all books are well cared for.

If your child is struggling or has difficulty, please do not do the homework for her. Stop after the set time and write in the homework diary an outline of the problem and return the homework the next day to the teacher.

Homework which is not completed to a satisfactory standard will be repeated the following evening as well as the homework set for that night.

Absence

Pupils who take holidays during school time will not be given homework.

Pupils who are absent through illness will only be given homework at the Headteacher's discretion.

School Holidays

Homework is not usually given during the school holidays. Children are encouraged to read, making use of public libraries and bookshops.

Additional Homework

Additional homework may be given for Special Help Groups or in exceptional circumstances in agreement with the Headteacher and class teacher.

Music

Children taking private music lessons in school are expected to practise daily for a period of time suggested by the instrumental teacher

Junior children are expected to spend time at home practising work set on the recorder in preparation for the next lesson.

Reviewed Spring 2017

Next Review Spring 2020

Homework Schedule for Prep 1

Monday	Literacy (usually Lighthouse Guided Reading)
Tuesday	Reading
Wednesday	Reading
Thursday	Mathematics
Friday	Reading

The timetable is flexible to allow for reinforcement of topics taught during the day. Reading homework will be written in the Reading Record. Only the specified pages should be completed.

Homework Schedule for Prep 2

Monday	Reading and Number Bonds
Tuesday	Reading
Wednesday	English Skills
Thursday	Mathematics
Friday	Reading and Spelling

Spellings are tested every Friday. Number bonds are tested every 2 weeks on a Friday. Parents are asked to work with their child on number bonds and spellings for 5 minutes each night.

Homework Schedule for Prep 3

Monday	English Comprehension and Reading
Tuesday	Spelling Exercise and Reading
Wednesday	Mathematics and Reading
Thursday	English, which may include Verbal Reasoning, Comprehension, Grammar, Punctuation or Writing, plus Reading
Friday	Mathematics, Spelling and Reading

Children in Prep 3 should read regularly with an adult to develop fluency and understanding. The excellent ideas for reading at the back of the Collins Big Cat books provide a rich resource of activities to share with your child. Please remember to make a note in the reading record.

Spelling, Number Bonds or Multiplication Tables are tested every Friday. Spelling test books should remain in a plastic wallet in the school bag for use in school. A look, say, cover, write and check sheet is provided for use at home. Mathematics tests will include a variety of language which should become more familiar throughout the year. Learning 'little and often' is a recommended approach.

Mathematics homework is usually a worksheet based upon the day's lesson. The second activity is an open-ended investigation which can be tailored to individual ability.

Presentation of work is important, as is the return of completed homework the following morning in the plastic wallets provided.

Homework Schedule for Prep 4

Monday	Mathematics and Reading
Tuesday	English Comprehension and Reading
Wednesday	Mathematics and Reading
Thursday	English Comprehension and Reading
Friday	English – a carousel of activities including Comprehension, Creative Writing, Verbal Reasoning, Non Verbal Reasoning and research. A Mathematics activity may be included to support work in class.

Reading

Children in Preps 4 to 7 should read every night and should spend some time each week reading aloud to an adult, to develop fluency, accuracy and understanding. At this stage they should also be discussing the text so as to develop comprehension skills. They can also read other materials as well as their school book so as to gain experience with different layouts and genre specific features. They can record this in their reading records.

Spelling and Times Tables are tested every Friday.

Please return the spelling book on Friday so we can complete the test at the back of the book.

Spellings are given on Friday to learn for the following Friday.

Parents are asked to work with their child on Number Bonds and Times Tables every night for 5 minutes.

Presentation of written work is important.

Homework which is poorly presented will be given back to the child to repeat the following evening in addition to that evening's work.

Mathematics

Suggestions for questions when learning the 4 times table.

What is 4 times 6?

What is 9 times 4?

How many 6s in 24?

What is 24 divided by 6?

By varying the question and using a variety of mathematical language you are helping your child develop problem solving skills.

If homework has taken less time than expected, further reinforcement or problem solving can be found on:

www.nrich.org

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2

Homework Schedule for Prep 5

Monday	English – Comprehension / writing / grammar / punctuation / verbal reasoning.
Tuesday	Mathematics – supporting / continuing work done in class
Wednesday	Spelling activity
Thursday	Mathematics – supporting / continuing work done in class
Friday	English – a carousel of activities including Comprehension, Creative Writing, Verbal Reasoning, Non Verbal Reasoning and research. A Mathematics activity may be included to support work in class. New spellings and tables given for test on Friday.

Reading

Children in Preps 4 to 7 should read every night and should spend some time each week reading aloud to an adult, to develop fluency, accuracy and understanding. At this stage they should also be discussing the text so as to develop comprehension skills. They can also read other materials as well as their school book so as to gain experience with different layouts and genre specific features. They can record this in their reading records using the codes which have been given. Please see the reading question booklet for ideas to develop reading.

Spelling, Times Tables and Mental Arithmetic are tested every Friday.

Spellings are given on Friday to learn for the following Friday.

Parents are asked to work with their child on Number Bonds, Mental Arithmetic and Times Tables regularly (ie as often as possible) Please see suggestions below. (Mental Arithmetic booklet included.)

Please return the spelling/tables book on Friday.

Presentation of written work is important.

Homework which is poorly presented will be given back to the child to repeat the following evening in addition to that evening's work.

Mathematics

Maths homework will involve work based on the day's teaching and will often include an extra activity for those children who require a greater volume of work.

Suggestions for questions when learning the 4 times table.

What is 4 times 6?

What is 9 times 4?

How many 6s in 24?

What is 24 divided by 6?

What is 24 shared between 4?

What did I multiply 4 by to get 44?

By varying the question and using a variety of mathematical language you are helping your child develop problem solving skills. These questions are to aim for throughout the year. The children will not be able to do these immediately.

Here are some examples:-

If a pencil costs 9p how many can I buy with 54p?

If a pencil costs 9p how much will 8 pencils cost?

A beetle has 6 legs. How many legs do 9 beetles have?

I think of a number, and then subtract 18. The answer is 26. What was my number?

Kate has 38 toy cars. John has half as many. How many toy car has John?

A box holds 70 biscuits.

How many biscuits are left if you eat 17 biscuits?

How many people can have 5 biscuits each?

How many biscuits are there in 6 boxes?

How many boxes are needed to hold 200 biscuits?

As the year progresses, you could try more difficult more multi step problems:-

There are 129 books on the top shelf at the library. 87 books on the bottom shelf. I remove 60 of the books. How many books are left on the shelves?

I think of a number, add 2, and then multiply by 3. The answer is 15. What was my number?

There are 36 children in a class. Half of them have flavoured crisps. One third of them have plain crisps. How many children have crisps?

Questions about time, money and measure are best done in real life situations and will help children see the need for mathematics in everyday life.

They should know and be able to use:

1 millennium = 1000 years

1 century = 100 years

1 year = 12 months, 52 weeks and 365 days

1 week = 7 days

1 day = 24 hours

1 hour = 60 minutes

1 minute = 60 seconds

The rhyme

30 days hath September

If homework has taken less time than expected, further reinforcement or problem solving can be found on:

www.nrich.org

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2

NB

Homework in Prep 5 should take between 30 and 40 minutes. Please ask your child to stop working when this time has been reached. They are regularly reminded of this homework rule by the class teacher.

Homework Schedule for Prep 6

Monday	Shorter Homework following After School Study Session. Mental Maths / VR / My Maths / NVR
Tuesday	Mathematics / Reasoning / NVR
Wednesday	English Grammar / Reasoning / Punctuation / Spelling / Vocabulary
Thursday	Mathematics / Reasoning / VR / NVR
Friday	Practice paper and VR or NVR / English

Reading

Children in Preps 4 to 7 should read every night. At this stage they should also be discussing the text so as to develop comprehension skills. They can also read other materials as well as their school book so as to gain experience with different layouts and genre specific features. They can record this in their reading records.

Spelling and Mental Arithmetic are tested every week.

Spellings are given on Friday to learn for the following Friday.

Presentation of written work is important.

Homework which is poorly presented will be given back to the child to repeat the following evening in addition to that evening's work.

Mathematics

Maths homework will involve work based on the day's teaching and will often include an extra activity for those children who require a greater volume of work.

Suggestions for questions when revising times tables.

What is 4 times 6?

What is 40 times 6?

What is 9 times 4?

What is 9 times 400?

What is 24 divided by 3?

What is one third of 24?

What is 4 squared?

What is the square root of 25?

At this level speed is important. Children should respond within 3 seconds or less.

By varying the question and using a variety of mathematical language you are helping your child develop problem solving skills. Here are some examples:-

If a pencil costs 9p how many can I buy with 54p?

If 3 sweets cost 18p how much will 5 sweets cost?

Questions about time, money and measures are best done in real life situations and will help children see the need for mathematics in everyday life.

Homework Schedule for Prep 7

Monday	English
Tuesday	Mathematics
Wednesday	English
Thursday	Mathematics
Friday	Research / Topic Work

Reading

Children in Prep 7 should read every night. At this stage they should also be discussing the text so as to develop comprehension skills. They can also read other materials as well as their school book so as to gain experience with different layouts and genre specific features.

Spelling are tested every Friday.

Spellings are given on Friday to learn for the following Friday.

Presentation of written work is important.

Homework which is poorly presented will be given back to the child to repeat the following evening in addition to that evening's work.

Mathematics

Maths homework will involve work based on the day's teaching and will often include an extra activity for those children who require a greater volume of work.