



# Saint Louise Primary School

## Homework Guide

Our homework guide has been produced in consultation with pupils, parents, carers and staff.

It aims to be flexible and allow our families to engage in homework activities that encourage an active approach to learning with quality interactions.

St Louise Primary stakeholders agree that homework is an effective way of:

- Enabling learners to practise and build on what they have learned in class
- To spend quality time with family members and share their learning experiences
- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Encourage learners to be independent
- Partnership working with home and school
- Support for learners, improving their chances of becoming successful learners

In general, homework will be issued on a **Monday** to be completed by a **Friday**. Class Teachers may indicate, as a guide, which homework activities can be carried out each day, however, this is only a guide and families should decide together when homework tasks will be completed over the week.

We understand that many of our pupils attend after school clubs and activities, and as a result, our new homework guide will have '**compulsory**' aspects that need to be completed and '**opt in**' aspects that allow parents/carers to control the amount of time a child engages with their homework.

In Term 2 (Oct - Dec) all our children will be learning lines and songs for the annual Christmas shows. During this time children will be issued with a personal topic/project to complete over the term to be handed in just before the end of term. Compulsory activities will be kept to a minimum during this term.

As part of Active Literacy across the whole school, we have adopted the **Book Banding** model in P1-3 and **novels** in P4-7. As a result of this, some children in P1-3 may re-visit a book they have already read to engage in the active literacy reading strategies and ensure consistent progression through the programme.

Each week there will be a Literacy and Numeracy focus with other areas included where necessary.

Throughout the year, homework may be related to relevant events including, Olympic Games, St Andrew's Day, Scottish Festivals or seasonal events.

When children are preparing for Sacraments such as Reconciliation, the Eucharist or Confirmation, there will be a strong focus on RE across that term.

## 'Opt In' Homework

Over the week and depending on your children's other commitments, we encourage you to choose, as a family, which other aspects of homework to engage in.

We would encourage these to be interactive with a focus on an **Oral** or **Practical** activity e.g. Choose a book or novel from home/library and discuss the main character(s) etc., practise throwing and catching a ball or use a stopwatch to jog on the spot for 30 seconds.

In general, tasks should be as **active** and **fun** as possible whilst still reinforcing key learning.

We would encourage the use of **board games** to support learning e.g. Snakes and Ladders can reinforce counting on and back, Scrabble supports spelling and making new words, Monopoly develops skills in counting and purchasing, Connect Four helps with patterns and sequences, Dominoes can be used for matching doubles and patterns etc.

Where possible take **learning outdoors** and use **the environment** to reinforce learning.

Link learning to **real life experiences** e.g. Find a range of 3D shapes around the home and discuss how many sides, edges and corners they have, find a book anywhere in the house and write down 5 adjectives, nouns or verbs and choose objects around the house to draw etc.

As part of the homework task we would encourage you to engage in conversations with your child on what they have been learning in school/class.

Over the session there may be nights when homework is not given or expected to be completed e.g. Parents' Evenings, School Shows, Discos, Fayres, Bonfire Night, PSG Events etc.

### Support:

Each term, class teachers will provide parents/carers with a list of key learning for each curricular area to support the 'opt in' aspect of homework. This will also be shared in the class areas of our website.

The '**Pupil Zone**' section of our website will direct parents, carers and pupils to websites and activities that will support their learning further.

Each pupil will have **online logins** for educational sites they can access from home to supplement their learning. All children in South Lanarkshire schools have a **Glow login** which gives them access to a range of interactive sites.

Class teachers may provide further advice and links to online resources or activities they feel could be used at home to extend your child's homework further.

If your child is having trouble completing their homework or is becoming distressed, they should take a break and return to it later. If they are still having difficulties, there is no need to continue and a brief note can be sent into the class teacher outlining the difficulty.

We are all in agreement that **quality is much more important than quantity** and the kind of homework your child is given is much more important than the amount.