

Belgrove Senior Girls' School

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THIRD CLASS TEACHERS 2019-20

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school to all the children in Third Class. We hope they all had an enjoyable holiday and are now ready for a productive and enjoyable year. Below we have outlined some information that will be of benefit to you in guiding your daughter this year.

Reading

Homework reading must be read **aloud** for you every night. If your child has difficulty with a word, help her to break it into syllables and sound it out. If this fails, tell her the word and ask her to read the sentence again. At the end of the reading session, chat with your child about the content of what she has read. Paired reading is sent home every night and should take about 5 – 10 mins.

We cannot over emphasise the importance of developing a love of reading at this stage. Reading material should always be at your child's reading level. Read to your child, read with your child (paired reading), let your child read to you. Make it fun! Each child should have a library book taken from the class library and should read it every night.

Spelling

The children are encouraged to learn spelling using the “*Look and Say, Cover, Write, Check*” method. The actual writing down of each spelling using the spelling strategies they have been taught in class, is a very important part of the learning process. Their spellings will be checked on an on-going basis.

Hand Writing

Neat hand writing is expected in classwork, homework and in project work. The neat layout of work is an important skill. This is reinforced in class on a daily basis and should be encouraged at home. Please note that joined writing will be introduced gradually during Third Class. This will be done using the children's writing workbook.

English Writing

We encourage the children to be accurate with sentence structure, spellings and grammar. To promote self-expression and fluidity of ideas during creative writing, all mistakes may not be corrected on first drafts.

Maths

The Maths programme in Third Class is extensive. It incorporates the introduction of multiplication and division. The learning of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division tables is **essential**.

Tables can be learned, as spellings are, using the “*Look and Say, Cover, Write, Check*” method. Additional resources are available on the school website.

Check your child's maths homework each night. If she is having a problem doing it, or has been unable to complete it, please put a note in her Homework Notebook.

Many Maths topics can be carried out informally. Help your child to:

- Read the time both in digital and analogue.
- Be familiar with coin values and be aware of change when shopping.
- Understand fractions when sharing.

Gaeilge

The revised curriculum has a strong emphasis on oral language. We would encourage each child to use the phrases and vocabulary she learns in school at home. These can be found in *Abair Liom* and her copy. Formal reading and writing of Irish are introduced this year along with simple Irish spellings.

Requirements for School

- Pared HB pencils
- Coloured pencils/crayons
- Eraser and pencil sharpener
- Ruler
- Pritt Stick
- Art Shirt
- 2 whiteboard markers
- Highlighters

Healthy Lunches

Children should bring healthy lunches to school and should bring home unfinished lunches. Crisps and fizzy drinks are not allowed. Sweets should be discouraged.

Please ensure that your child brings home her recyclable cartons in a plastic bag or in their lunch boxes. A re-useable water bottle with a sip lid which does not spill is recommended!

Assessment

- Standardised Tests: The MICRA-T Level 2 Reading Test is administered in September and The Sigma-T Maths Test is administered at the end of the school year.
- Class based tests – please sign and return to school to keep informed of your daughter’s progress.

Communication Requirements

Written notes from parents are necessary in the following circumstances and should be written on a separate sheet, not in the Homework Journal:

- **Absence**
- **Lateness**
- **Leaving early**
- **Staying in from yard**
- **All journals should be signed every night after checking that homework has been completed accurately.**

Homework

Homework is an essential part of your child’s learning. It reinforces what she has learned in class that day. It is important she completes it fully and correctly. In Third Class we encourage each child to develop her organisational skills in relation to her homework. Oral homework is as important as written homework. Third Class homework should take roughly 30-40 minutes of consistent work.

If you have any concerns regarding your daughter, you are most welcome to arrange an appointment with her teacher. We hope this will be a happy and rewarding year for your daughter.

