

Belgrove Senior Girls' School
Additional Information from Fourth Class Teachers 2019/20

The curriculum incorporates a wide variety of subjects. Within these subjects there are different learning and teaching methods which include class teaching, oral discussion, group work, collaborative and co-operative learning, project work and use of I.T.

Reading

In 4th class the children should be encouraged to **read aloud** to you. We would encourage you to engage in paired or **shared reading** with your daughter as part of her homework every evening. Ask your child to predict what she thinks a book might be about, or what she thinks might happen next. At the end of the reading session, question her about the content of what she has read. Each child should have a library book taken from the class or school library. Children should read independently for an additional 15+ minutes from their library book or a book of their choice each evening. They should be encouraged to read for enjoyment.

Spelling

Please ensure that the children learn their spellings each evening using the **Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check** method. The children are asked to learn English and Irish spellings and occasionally to put them into sentences to show their meaning in context. Spellings will be checked regularly but not given as a test on a Friday. Instead we will reinforce their spellings through dictation sentences.

Written Work

Written work should be neat, tidy and well presented. At the beginning of the year print writing is the style used by the children in their copies while still practicing cursive writing in their workbooks. When the children are ready they will use cursive writing in their copies. The children will use only pencil.

When given a topic for project work, parents can assist their daughter to select suitable information and pictures from books and the internet. The aim of the project work should be for the children themselves to learn and write about the particular topic in their own words.

Mathematics

We hope the children have a good knowledge of their addition and subtraction tables by 4th Class. Multiplication and division tables will be continuously revised throughout the year. Children must revise their tables on a nightly basis with emphasis on accuracy and speed. Long multiplication will be introduced in 4th Class.

Gaeilge

Our Irish scheme this year encourages us to focus more on the spoken word and conversational Irish both in school and at home. We would encourage the use of the 'cúpla focal sa bhaile'. Children will be given Irish spellings and verbs each week to learn.

Requirements for School

Please ensure that your daughter has all her daily requirements as listed on her booklist: 2 pared pencils, an eraser, a ruler, a pencil sharpener, a red pen and 2 whiteboard makers. Please remember an old shirt for art work.

Healthy Lunches

Your daughter should be encouraged to have healthy lunches throughout the week and to keep

treats to a Friday. Continue to encourage your daughter to eat fruit and vegetables as part of her lunch. Crisps are not allowed in school. Unfinished lunches are to be brought home. Encourage your daughter to be active at home on a daily basis.

Homework

4th Class homework should take approximately 40 – 50 minutes. If your daughter has worked consistently for 50 minutes and has not completed her homework in the allocated time she may stop and you can write a note to her class teacher informing her of any difficulties your child might be having. This information can be very informative and help aid the teacher in modifying lessons in the classroom.

Each night written homework should be checked before the homework journal is signed by a parent.

The amount of time spent on homework should also be recorded.

Assessment

Your daughter's progress will be monitored throughout the year.
Class assessments will be administered at the teacher's discretion.

Standardised Tests:

The MICRA–T, Drumcondra Reading and SIGMA-T Standardised Tests will be administered in 4th class by the class teacher.

Class Blog

We like to keep you informed of what is going on in school. You can access your child's class blog on the school website <http://www.belgroveseniorgirls.ie/category/class-blogs/>

Communication Requirements

A note is required for:

- Absence - this needs to be retained by the class teacher therefore please ensure it is on a **separate page**.
- Late arrival
- Leaving early
- Staying in from yard
- Incomplete homework
- Taking medication
- Non-participation in P.E. or classroom activities

Parent teacher meetings will be arranged once a year.

If you would like to meet us at any time during the year, please make an appointment by writing a note in your daughter's journal or ringing the office.

Please refer to the 'Introductory Booklet for Parents' which you received on your daughter's enrolment in this school and which can also be accessed on the school website www.belgroveseniorgirls.ie.