



## **Homework Survey November 2018**

Thank you to the thirty-eight parents who took time to complete our homework survey. We were delighted with the response (75% of families enrolled) and think it is great to see that we have so many interested parents. The survey responses were spread fairly evenly across the various year groups of our school. Children in P3-7 also completed a survey and staff discussed their opinions on homework at staff meetings. Below you can read a summary of the results.

It was interesting to note that the majority of parents (95%) and pupils (75 %) thought that homework was an important part of school life and for improving their child's learning (97%). Similarly, a majority of parents (76%) and children (67%) thought the amount of homework given and the level of difficulty (92%) is 'about right'. Staff do feel homework has an impact on a child's learning and spend many hours searching for meaningful homework tasks for all the different groups in their rooms and also then marking it. They are delighted to note that parents support them in this.

Children indicated that they usually know what they have to do for their homework, although they were almost equally divided on the value of a homework diary. Parents did feel there is value in signing a child's homework (78%). This reflects what staff also said, in that the length of time it takes a child to actually write down their homework has to be balanced with the rest of the days' learning activities, however they really appreciate an indication that parents' have seen or helped their child complete their work.



We did ask a question about the length of time spent on homework each night, but as the results were anonymous, we can't apply this to each year group. We would need to revise this question for future surveys to be able to analyse it properly. Some parents indicated in their comments that they felt there was variation between staff on the amount of homework given. To an extent this should be largely true, as our current Homework Policy indicates that we expect children to spend longer on their homework as they get older. Staff are concerned that we get the balance right and they have met again to look at all the homework tasks given and any modifications needed.

We intend to use the feedback from parents, pupils and staff when reviewing our Homework Policy.

Parents were also asked some general questions about Rasharkin Primary School and staff have been very encouraged by the responses. All of the parents who completed the survey (100%) said that they thought the standard of education at Rasharkin PS was good (8%) or very good (92%). Many thanks to all those who took the time to write very positive comments. Although there are too many to include here a sample of these are:

- "The standard of education is fabulous at Rasharkin PS"
- "I am very happy with the level of education my children receive, and with the extra support they get from all staff."
- "It is a fantastic school."
- "I think it is a fab school and we are so thankful that our children came here."

Other suggestions have been received that staff have discussed and evaluated their practice in light of these.

Some parents did suggest that additional after school clubs would be a benefit and so this term we have organised, Miniversity (computer club), Table Tennis, Orienteering and Multi Skills. Suggestions were also made regarding a breakfast club. This operates in many other schools and as it is outside of 'normal' school hours, the additional costs are met by parents of the children attending. The difficulty for our school is that some children who travel by bus have to be in school early and therefore we don't feel it would appropriate to charge these children for coming to school early, i.e. attending a breakfast club. Whilst many parents who work would be quite happy to pay, it seems there wouldn't be enough interest to cover the costs (staff, food, etc.) involved when the 'early bus children' are taken out of it. We will continue to review this and if circumstances change, or another option becomes available, would be happy to considerate it.