

How it Works: Homework

Rationale: We believe a strong partnership between home and school as the best way to maximise student learning. We recognise that families are busy outside of school hours and many children are participating in a diverse range of extra curricula activities. Research tells us that the impact of homework in the primary years does not have a significant gain on learning outcomes, however there is a positive impact in the secondary years (Hattie, 2009). Based on this our approach is the following.

We have an expectation that children are reading daily. In the early years this may be an adult reading to their child for 10 minutes, this progresses to reading together, and then to the child being able to read to an adult.

This daily reading does many things;

1. It is quality time with your child
2. It shows your child you value reading
3. You model fluent reading
4. You can hear and see your child's reading development over time
5. It gives you things to talk about with your child

We support this at school through offering parent workshops annually about how read with your child at home, we provide supporting documents with tips to help.

Families can have a library membership, so everyone from the whole family can borrow a variety of texts. In the last week of term we make sure everyone has enough books to read over the holidays.

To prepare our students for secondary school during term 3, students in years five and six will participate in an individual inquiry that runs over several weeks. It will have clear parameters about what is required to be produced and how it will be shared with an audience and will have a component to be completed of outside school hours. This modified 'assignment' supports students developing breaking tasks into sections or stages and time management skills, which will support them completing tasks in their further education/

For families who want to access more learning at home the school is building a page on our website that links families with quality home learning resources, activities, and games.

References:

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Reilly, K. (2016). Time Magazine, *Is homework good for kids? Here's what the research says*, August 20, 2016. Accessed from: <https://time.com/4466390/homework-debate-research/> (31 March 2021).

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