

HOME LEARNING

PURPOSE

Murrumbreena Primary School recognises home learning as a home/school partnership focusing on the development of academic, social, physical and cultural capabilities.

AIMS

To reinforce and encourage the development of:

- a balanced lifestyle
- personal accountability and responsibility for independent learning
- life skills linked to the Primary Years Program (PYP) – research, self-management, communication, social and thinking skills
- parent participation in their child's education.

GUIDELINES

Home learning to be:

- appropriate to the student's skill level
- interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open ended
- flexible in regards to family commitments
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum and the student's personal interests
- monitored by teachers and parents.

Parents and students are to be advised of home learning expectations at the beginning of the school year.

Although home learning activities will be set by the school for week nights, these activities may be completed by students on weekends.

There should be regular liaison between teachers and parents in regard to the completion of home learning activities.

A general guide to the activities set by the school for each level:

PREP

Reading to and with parents each night

Commonly used words

Activities as listed in Individual Learning Plans

Activities such as:

- maths in the home
- awareness of print in the environment
- playing board games, card games, I spy etc.

Up to 30 minutes per night for school related activities.

GRADES 1 & 2

Reading to and with parents each night

Language and maths activities/games

Consolidation and extension of classroom activities

Activities as listed in Individual Learning Plans

Up to 30 minutes per night for school related activities.

GRADES 3 & 4

Reading - oral and independent

Language and maths activities/games

Automatic response to number facts

Consolidation and extension of classroom activities

Activities as listed in Individual Learning Plans

Up to 30 minutes per night for school related activities.

GRADES 5 & 6

Reading- oral and independent

Language and maths activities/games

Consolidation and extension of classroom activities

Activities as listed in Individual Learning Plans

Use of diaries as a means of regular communication

Up to 30-45 minutes per night for school related activities.

SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students take responsibility for their home learning by:

- being aware of the homework policy and weekly expectations
- acting responsibly for the completion of homework tasks within set timeframes
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities
- year 5 and 6 students use the homework diary to record and monitor home learning tasks and time frames.

Parents take responsibility for home learning by:

- being aware of the homework policy and weekly expectations
- developing a positive and productive approach to home learning
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- assisting the child to develop a routine for home learning: eg. diaries, schedules, allocating a space
- helping the child with home learning tasks but not doing it for them
- discussing with the child one thing they have done well with and one thing yet to be improved
- ensuring year 5 and 6 students keep and use the homework diary
- talking to teachers about concerns they have about home learning.

Teachers take responsibility for home learning by:

- ensuring parents/carers and students are aware of the school's home learning policy and weekly expectations
- helping students to identify and develop organisational and time- management skills (diaries for year 5 and 6)

- giving students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extra curricular activities. (eg. Have a set day when home learning is due and allow a weekend for students to attend to homework)
- Communicating to parents what the homework is, when it is due and how parents can help (eg. homework policy and expectations included in parent handbook and distributed at parent information night, explicit home learning tasks described with due dates via COMPASS)
- Ensuring students know when the home learning is due (eg. in diaries or recorded on whiteboard)
- Ensuring that all homework is corrected weekly and students are provided with feedback
- Contacting the parent when homework has not been completed by the child on more than one occasion.

EVALUATION

- Teachers and parents to monitor relevance and structure of home learning tasks and the development of skills such as: organisation, time-management, self-discipline, skills in using resources and taking responsibility for learning.
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's policy review cycle.