

Monday 23rd April 2018

Grade 3 Homework 2018

Dear Grade 3 Parents,

During Term 1, homework was a hot topic of discussion amongst the Grade 3 children. While Take Home Reading will continue to be the major focus for the Grade 3s, Term 2 sees the introduction of additional tasks for the children to complete at home. Much consideration has been put into ensuring the homework program supports the children's work in the classroom and is not overly time consuming.

The Grade 3 children will take home their blue homework folder once a fortnight. The homework folder will be sent home on a Monday and is expected back at school on the Thursday of the following week. We understand children and families are busy and that time is hard to come by. The fortnightly turn-around ensures all children have the opportunity to complete the set tasks and return their completed homework on the set day. As with Take Home Reading, this routine will provide an opportunity for children to become responsible for their own learning and foster organisational skills that will be valuable throughout their schooling.

Inside each child's homework book will be an outline of fortnightly homework expectations. The fortnightly homework program will typically be as follows –

Reading

Children will continue to take home a selection of books in their Take Home Reading bag as well as borrow from the Library each week. As part of their homework, children are required to –

- Read daily *to* or *with* an adult. As the books become longer, children may no longer be reading the entire text aloud; however, we encourage children to read at least some of the text aloud to continue to develop fluency, phrasing and expression.
- Engage in 'book chats' about their reading material in order to develop reading comprehension skills. Please refer to the information sent home earlier in the year regarding comprehension and book chats, as this is the most important aspect of take home reading for Grade 3 children.
- Have the Take Home Reading Diary signed by a parent/guardian to show they have read and discussed each text (please note: children are to record the page numbers read when reading longer books and have their diary signed to show that reading took place five times over the week).
- Return their book bag and ALL books to school on their Take Home Reading day, even if some books require 'reborrowing', along with the completed Take Home Reading Diary.

Numeracy

Depending on individual need, children will be focussing on the automatic recall of addition and subtraction facts *or* multiplication and division facts. The Grade 3s will participate in a weekly Mental Maths Challenge at school with the aim of beating their own personal best. The fortnightly homework will assist student progress in this area and will typically be as follows –

- Practise mental maths 4 times over the fortnight for approximately 5-10 minutes a time.
- Select one of the suggested tasks on the 'Mental Maths Suggestions' sheet or 'Times Tables Suggestions' sheet. Children do not need to complete all tasks on the suggestions sheet; we encourage them to select the strategy that works best for them.
- Focus on one times table at a time. Children will be given instructions in class as to which table to focus on based on individual need.
- Parents/Guardians to sign the fortnightly homework expectations sheet to confirm the homework has been completed. We do not require the children to formally record their workings out in their homework book.

We know that mastering times tables and building up speed with addition and subtraction comes with practise. Any additional practise or games your child finds helpful in this area are encouraged, as is regular use of Mathletics.

Additional Tasks

From time to time, there will be one additional task for the children to complete. While this will vary from week to week, the task will be aligned to our classroom program and will be something that benefits from a partnership between home and school. This may be as simple as interviewing a family member regarding our Inquiry Topic or completing a Writer's Notebook inspiration page. Information regarding these tasks will be included in the homework expectations page with clear instructions for the children to follow.

Teachers will explain the expectations in class, however, if you or your child have any questions, please contact your child's teacher. We are very happy to assist as the children learn this new routine.

Yours sincerely,

Meagan Cofield, Megan Gerring and Sammy Orchard
Grade 3 Class Teachers

