



Homework Policy – International School Suva Primary

We believe:

- children need active play every day.
- children should read for pleasure and/or be read to every day.
- children should follow their passions and have choice in what they want to learn after school time.
- family time is important.

What might this look like?

- Interviewing family members about topics being investigated.
- Collecting objects or artifacts to support learning in the classroom.
- Discussing inquiry questions at the dinner table.
- Reflecting on what they have learned at school.
- Exploring and researching their own interests.
- Playing games and cards that involve logic, strategy, word play and maths.
- Exploring mathematical thinking through real-life experiences.
- Reading, reading, reading and more reading.....

Homework when given should support or reinforce learning that is taking place in the classroom, and should be work that students are capable of completing independently. Setting of homework is undertaken only if there is a need to support student learning – homework should never be busy work. Children must develop in a balanced way and have a life beyond school, an opportunity to develop friendships and hobbies and passions. If a child is swamped by many hours of homework every day they cannot do this and will face a challenge in developing into balanced adults. Whilst we support homework, we do not believe it should dominate school and home life. We accept that not every activity will capture children and parents' imagination and that weekends can sometimes be busy. We believe that homework should be enjoyable and

manageable for all concerned and if that becomes a burden or source of conflict it ceases to be a constructive aspect of teaching and learning.

Accordingly, the total time spent on homework should not exceed 30 minutes per day and in younger classrooms, 15 minutes per day. Homework should be developmentally appropriate and needs to be part of a wider partnership between parents and school. Parental support and encouragement should enable the student to work independently to allow for development of their self-management skills.

If a child has difficulty with homework this should be reported to the teacher, as doing so helps a teacher to identify further needs of that child. Likewise if there is some reason why homework is not done on time, the teacher should be notified by the parent. As a school, we recognize that children do have outside events and activities and we need to show understanding to support that. Homework is meant to be an enjoyable and worthwhile activity for all, and should not cause undue stress to students, parents or teachers! Please discuss any concerns with the class teacher concerned as soon as they arise. If after talking with your teachers and there are still concerns, please talk with the Head of Primary.

We hope that children are motivated by positive incentives and by the tasks themselves; children are not punished if they fail to complete homework. However, discreet homework records will be kept and if a child consistently fails to complete the reading or work set, this will be discussed with the child and their parents.

Homework, where applicable, will be handed out on a Friday for the following Thursday. All homework will be marked with the children on the Thursday. The tasks set may not always need to be handed in; there are other ways in which teachers will respond or give feedback, for e.g. sharing results in class discussion, putting work on display or transferring work into class books. The work should always have been explained and discussed in class before coming home; it may be a continuation of class work or a math's game already familiar to your child. It is our intention, and good practice, not to send work home that the child cannot already do. I.e. Parents are not expected to teach new skills.

All children from Year 1 – Year 5 will have homework books/folders. In addition, every child will have a home reading book that is changed regularly, either by the teacher/teacher assistant or the child themselves. The reading books will be at the level the child is working so that they can read it independently at home.

Broadly speaking, these are our current expectations:

Early Childhood

Parents/caregivers read on a regular basis to their children. Letter sounds and sight words, counting and number games. UOI work – collecting and bringing materials.

Reception

Parents/caregivers read on a daily basis to and with their children. Take home reader/sight words. Letter sounds and sight words, counting and number games. UOI work – collecting and bringing materials.

Year 1

Parents read daily to and with their children. Inquiry based learning may be initiated by the student and encouraged by the parents. 15 minutes daily including reading, number work including counting and number games.

Year 2 and 3

Reading daily – reading with, sharing a book with parents and caregivers. 20 minutes daily including literacy and maths (including times tables) that revisits work completed in class in that given week. UOI related work.

Year 4 and 5

Reading daily – reading with, sharing a book with parents/caregivers. 30 minutes daily including literacy and maths that revisits work completed in class in that given week. UOI related work.

*Literacy tasks may include spelling, a reading-related task, comprehension activity, written task, research. Numeracy tasks may include times tables, maths

activities, problems. UOI related work will enhance the work being completed in class.

Homework, where applicable, will be handed out on a Friday for the following Thursday. All homework will be marked with the children on the Thursday. All children from Year 1 – Year 5 will have homework books/folders.

Increasingly teachers are also using the web for some homework. This may be directing children to sites such as Study ladder or an interactive game, or to comment on a blog.

Homework is not set during the school holidays. Parents can continue following the term overviews and always continue to read at home with their children. If a holiday is taken during term time, we actively discourage parents requesting work from a teacher. We suggest that parents continue with the daily reading and organize a holiday diary.

Homework – Guidance for Parents

At International School Suva, we appreciate how important and valuable good home/school links are and the need for us to work together to ensure an excellent education for all children.

How can parents help?

- Ask the children questions about what they are learning at school. (talking helps everyone understand things clearly)
- Play word and number games to consolidate early learning of letter sounds, common vocabulary and number bonds.
- Spend a little time on a regular basis, listening to your child read and discussing the books they bring home. Encourage your child to read words and books regularly (show them how important words are).
- Help them to form letters the way they are taught at school starting at the correct point. (NSW print/cursive font is used and will be shared with parents)
- Hear their times tables, number facts and spelling of words.

- Read what your child has written and talk to them about their writing. Does it make sense? Is it correctly punctuated? Is the writing neat and accurate? Have they used exciting words?
- Encourage your child to check over their work.
- Help your child find out additional facts, e.g. UOI on space – visit the library or research on the internet.

Time set aside for homework should be respected by the rest of the family. Try to make it become part of your child's daily routine.