

BRIDGETOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOMWORK POLICY



Homework Policy and Guidelines

Homework for primary school children should be minimal, in order that a balance of play, rest and exercise can be achieved. In the early years' homework should largely be informal.

As children move towards the upper primary years they should progressively be exposed to more structured homework requirements in order to facilitate a smooth transition to secondary school through the development of good study habits. Homework should always be seen as a vehicle to enhance student learning outcomes and foster positive school/home partnerships.

Our Homework Policy provides clear expectations for the quantity and content of homework to parents and teachers and have been developed through consultation with parents and teachers.

Homework requirements vary and need to consider individual's needs, circumstances and age. Time expectations are expressed as a maximum duration.

Purpose

Homework is:

- Used to facilitate the achievement of learning outcomes
- A tool to support the development of the student as an individual learner
- To be focussed on the curriculum areas of English and Mathematics
- To further the partnership between school and home
- To be set without impinging on reasonable time for the family, recreational and cultural pursuits relevant to the student's age and development
- To be determined by the teacher in terms of the type of homework being undertaken.
- In the main it will consist of consolidation, completion of set tasks and research where appropriate

Parent/guardian's role

- Ensure children have the opportunity to play and relax after school, before undertaking homework tasks.
- Have basic stationery available to avoid time wasting searching for a pencil or biro.
- Encourage a homework routine/timetable.
- Homework is best done at a quiet time set aside for homework in an area free of distraction.
- Completing homework in front of the television is not recommended.
- Ask your child questions about their homework.
- Praise your child and provide positive reinforcement when homework is completed.
It is important to remember that your words of praise, more than anything else, will motivate your child to do his/her best.
- Contact the classroom teacher to discuss any queries regarding your child's homework.
- Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the homework set.

Homework Expectation Outline

Year Level	Time Duration	Possible tasks for homework consist of the following
Kindy	10 minutes once or twice per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading with comprehension questions
Pre Primary	Up to 10 minutes three times per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading with comprehension questions (Term 1) • Decodable Readers (Term 2 onwards)
Years 1 - 2	Up to 10 - 15 minutes four times per week (Monday to Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading with comprehension questions (Term 1) • Decodable Readers (Term 2 onwards) • News plan or oral presentation • Learning of letter sounds and spelling word lists • Practice of basic maths facts to 10, building up to 20
Years 3 - 4	Up to 15 - 20 minutes four times per week (Monday to Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home reading nightly of teacher provided books (up to 10 minutes of independent reading. Then children reading to parents, parents reading to and with children) OR home reading of individual choice books • Spelling – SoundsWaves online • Recall and practice of maths facts, including times tables up to 10x • Oral presentation preparation • NAPLAN practice (teachers provided sheets or online) • Completion of work unfinished during class time (in negotiation with teacher and parents)
Years 5 - 6	Up to 20 - 30 minutes four times per week (Monday to Thursday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home reading nightly (up to 20 minutes of independent reading. Parents are encouraged to read to and with children) • Spelling – SoundsWaves online • Recall and practice of maths times tables up to 10x • Practice of basic addition & subtraction facts • Oral presentation preparation • Research task preparation • NAPLAN practice (teachers provided sheets or online) • Completion of work unfinished during class time (in negotiation with teacher and parents) <p>Year 6 Term 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal homework provided in preparation for Year 7 in high school.

Other Activities to Support Student Learning

All Years:

- board games, card games, dice games
- reading stories at bedtime
- cooking
- outdoor games and activities
- play charades and other drama type activities
- watch TV together and talk about the issues
- do crosswords, puzzles and jigsaws
- use a computer if you have one to search for interesting educational internet sites.

Extended Breaks from School Due to In - Term Holidays

Bridgetown Primary actively discourages students being taken out of school by their families for extended breaks to undertake interstate and overseas holidays. Parents are reminded that missing more than 5 days from a term of school can put a student at educational risk. The school is often asked to put together work packages to support students during extended absences and it is the school policy to decline these requests.

At Bridgetown Primary we believe:

- Concepts covered in class require introductions, examples, small group work, individual assistance, trial and error, feedback and assessment. Without the teacher being in a position to work with the child, a worksheet on its own (which the child can already do independently) is simply busy work.
- While we appreciate the fact that some families can only take holidays at certain periods of the year, the decision to withdraw children from the school is one that parents make knowing that their child(ren) may miss key concepts during their absence.

The activities listed below are simple for parents/carers to undertake and are beneficial to the learning process.

- Keep a written diary of events.
- Use a calendar/diary to plan dates, events and times.
- Write letters to classmates at school informing them of the adventures.
- Take a range of books, talking books, magazines, comics and brochures to read.
- Use a map to log travels, work out directions, distances, keys and symbols.
- Visit local Visitor's Centres, collect brochures and make a poster representing the highlights of the trip.
- Play eye spy and 20 questions.
- Be given a small sum of money and plan a budget.
- Parents should be talking to their children and be questioning about what they are seeing and experiencing.