



BANNISTER CREEK
Primary School

HOMEWORK POLICY

2014



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Rationale

Homework at Bannister Creek Primary will support higher levels of student achievement by extending the time available for students to consolidate skills and concepts learned at school. It also extends the time available for the exploration of new ideas and new situations.

It is expected that homework will relate directly to the learning and teaching programs that the students are completing in the classroom.

Homework can be a tool to further develop the school-home relationship and help to build parent's understanding of their child's learning program and progress

Purpose

Homework is:

- Used to facilitate achievement of learning outcomes.
- A tool to support the development of the student as an individual learner.
- To be focused on the areas of English and Maths.
- Not to be associated with any form of discipline or punishment.
- To be set without impinging on reasonable time for the family, recreational and cultural pursuits that would be relevant to the age and development of the student.
- To be determined by the teacher in terms of the type of homework being undertaken.
- Marked by the teacher and monitored as part of class incentive programs.
- Used as part of student assessment and reflected in student achievement reports.

Parent's Role

- Children need the opportunity to play and relax after school, before undertaking homework tasks.
- Have the basic stationary requirements readily available to avoid time wasting, searching for a pencil.
- Homework is best done at a quiet time set aside for homework in an area free of clutter and distraction.
- Ask your child questions regarding their homework.
- Praise your child and provide positive reinforcement when the homework is completed and provide help as required.

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	Time Duration	Learning Areas covered	Tasks included
Kindy	10 minutes once or twice a term	English	Take home class rhyming bag/ colour bag/ news bag/ sound bag/ holiday bag.
Pre Primary	Up to 10 minutes twice a week semester 1 and 4 times a week in semester 2	English	Sounds Sight words Home readers as required
Year 1/2	10 – 15 minutes 4 times a week	English Maths	Home reading 4 times a week Review sight words Spelling practice News plan Review Maths concepts
Year 3/4	20 – 30 minutes 4 nights a week	English Maths	Home reading 4 nights a week Review sight words Spelling journal 4 nights a week Maths times tables and basic facts practice Unfinished work
Year 5/6/7	30 – 45 minutes 4 nights a week	English Maths Humanities and Social Sciences	Nightly reading Spelling and tables practice Unfinished work Research assignments

Extension – Students at Bannister Creek have access to a number of different web sites and these can be accessed from home. By talking to your child's class teacher you can find out what they have access to and what the necessary passwords are. Examples of websites are; Reading Eggs, Sum Dog and Study Ladder.

Extended Breaks From School

Bannister Creek Primary actively discourages students being taken out of school by their families for extended breaks to attend 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 Bannister Creek 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 have been compiled by staff as being simple and 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.