



Homework 2014

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Firstly, thank you to those of you who responded to our Homework Survey at the end of 2013. We have taken into consideration your thoughts and the following letter is to outline the structure of homework for 2014. It will provide a mix of weekly compulsory activities as well as the option to work towards the Homework Challenge badges should families wish to pursue extra activities.

Homework Time Guidelines:

It is expected that pupils will commit to a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 minutes per night, Monday – Thursday, to cover each area of homework given. Most pupils will be able to complete set tasks within this time. Teachers understand that there are individual expectations related to ability.

Reading:

- Junior pupils will have reading books from class to be read again at home.
- Senior pupils will have a reading log to complete either based on reading material from class or reading material of their own.

Maths:

- Apart from Room 1 who will use iXL, all pupils will have a username and logon to mathsbuddy.co.nz. When they log in, follow-up tasks from class work will have been set by the teacher that pupils can work on at home. These will relate to the current aspect of mathematics that is being taught in class.
- Don't forget that at school on **Friday 14 March, 3pm** there will be a parent workshop to introduce Maths Buddy.
- For children and parents struggling with access to computers, children will be able to access a computer before school, and pupils accompanied by a parent and/or caregiver will be able to access school computers every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after school between 3pm and 5:30pm.

Spelling:

- Some classes will have spelling lists to learn associated with their level from the 'Essential Spelling' lists tested in class, while some may have spelling words to learn based on mistakes in their written work. Some classes may have individual lists sent home to work through.

Web/Internet based activities:

- Web/Internet based activities (such as MathsBuddy and Reading Eggs) require individual logons. Each child has their **own** logon details. It is important that they do not use each other's logons, especially siblings when at home, as this will interfere with the individualised programmes set by the classroom teacher. Teachers monitor the work set and it becomes difficult to assess progress if someone is using someone else's logon details.

Homework Challenges:

- Each term, pupils in Year 2 and above will be expected to complete **two** compulsory challenges (**one** in Term One). You and your child can choose the challenges, and notify the classroom teacher, then in Week 9 of each term, compulsory challenges will need to be presented.
- For pupils who wish to take the option of completing more Homework Challenges and work towards achieving the level badges, these are grouped in colour levels with Yellow starting at Year Two. Teachers will work with children who complete levels to advise them on the next colour level to be undertaken.
- Star Rating: This year each homework challenge will have a 'star' rating to determine the relative work needed to complete each activity. The more work required, the more 'stars' it is worth. The same bronze to gold awards will be awarded along the way to achieving a level badge with the following requirements:
 - Bronze 10 stars
 - Silver 20 stars
 - Gold and Badge 30 stars
- The Homework Challenges for each level are attached. Classroom teachers will advise what level pupils will start on. For children who passed a level in 2013, the teacher will advise them where to start this year. Some children may have completed a bronze or silver standard during last year. The teacher will work with them and cross-reference it to the new system and advise them where to start in 2014.

If you have any other queries or concerns about the Homework structure for 2014, please don't hesitate to be in contact with the classroom teacher or myself.

Brent Gray

Principal.