



HOME COMMUNICATION AND HOMEWORK POLICY

Ratified August 2013

*All children have the right to learn
Everyone is treated respectfully
We all have the right to feel safe*

WE VALUE:

*Teamwork, Respect, Responsibility,
Persistence and Honesty*

Home Communication

At Geranium Primary School we use four methods to ensure good home communication:

- Newsletter
- Green Bag
- Notes and notices
- Diary

The **Newsletter** is sent home every fortnight on a Thursday. This contains a term calendar, principal's information, information about school and class activities and community notices. Notices to be published in the Newsletter, need to be sent to the school before 9:00 am on Wednesdays.

The **Green Bag** is a two-way communication tool used to ensure that the newsletter, notes and notices get home or back to school in a clean and safe condition. Please check the envelope for any communication and check that the envelope is put back in your child's bag each day.

The Newsletter and Notices are distributed to the eldest child in each family.

The **Diary** is also a very important communication tool between home and school. Teachers check the diaries daily and all notes from parents should be written in the diary. It is most important that if a child is absent from school, a note of explanation is written in the diary or an absentee slip is completed and sent back with the child or a phone call is made to the school and this is recorded on an absentee slip. If a child is absent for several unexplained days, the school is legally required to follow up the non-attendance.

Homework

Geranium Primary School believes that homework is very important as it promotes good study habits, self-discipline, personal time organisation, independent skills and preparation for future academic rigour.

Because a **partnership** between parents and teachers will maximise the effectiveness of student's homework, parents are encouraged to take an interest in what their children do. Students must have accurate information in their diaries. The teacher will check any diary entries each day.

Parents are also encouraged to communicate in person, by phone or in the diary such things as difficulties experienced the need for an extension etc. Such feedback from parents will help students to make better use of time.

Teachers will give homework regularly. We believe homework is invaluable training and is an important aspect of a student's education especially in the upper primary.

Homework will be extension, consolidation, completion or revision of work already done and could include investigation and research.

At home provision of good physical conditions, good lighting, appropriate seating and space greatly improve effectiveness.

At Geranium Primary School we believe it is important that children have the opportunity to have quality time with their family and be involved in the many beneficial activities outside school hours which lead to a balanced lifestyle.

Homework supports the development of students so that they learn to work independently, are able to manage their own time and take responsibility for fulfilling a contract.

All students are expected to read every night for at least 10 minutes in Junior Primary and up to 20 minutes by year 7.

Added to this, year 3 to 7 students are able to select homework activities prepared by their class teacher. This allows students to do the homework on the night that best suits them. Completion of homework is the responsibility of the child. Parents are asked to encourage and talk with their children about their homework.

Parents are encouraged to check their child's diary for homework details and sign as activities are undertaken.

Homework activities can include:

- Unfinished work – spelling, writing, research
- Year 5-7 weekly Homework Contract
- Computer – must be educational like maths games, typing practice, practising spelling words, typing a letter; NOT games on a Playstation, iPhone or Xbox etc
- Play a Game – Board game or card game
- Housework – This can include making a bed, sweeping the floor, putting away dishes, tidying bedroom, meal preparation etc
- Teach an adult – something learnt at school
- Shopping – purchase items, find specific items in shop, look at prices, writing a shopping list
- Physical Activity – sports practice, playing outside with friends or family, skipping, bouncing a ball, bike riding etc
- Art work
- Journal writing
- Spelling – learn words, spell to family
- Music practice
- Prepare 'Healthy Snack or lunch box
- Caring for a pet or doing a job to earn pocket money

Recommended Homework time per school night

Reception reading aloud to, or with an adult or older sibling for 10 minutes 5 times a week plus 5 minutes sight words

Year 1 & 2 reading aloud to, or with, an adult or older sibling for 10 minutes 5 times a week plus 5 minutes spelling &/or sight words

Year 3 & 4 reading plus 10 minutes selected from homework activities list

Year 5 & 6 reading plus 30 minutes homework activities list

Year 7 20 minutes plus 40 minutes from homework activities list

Any work that children do at home needs to be counted and this policy gives a rationale for teachers and parents to work together to ensure that children do some work at home, but not a lot of sedentary work.

Our goal is to teach children the usefulness of homework; it takes time, but it is worth the effort.

NB: If a student is unable to do or complete their Homework due to illness, family commitments, are unsure about the task or not able to complete the task in the recommended time please write a note in the student's diary stating the reason.