



Kia ora whanau,

As a staff we have been discussing how we operate across the school as part of our self-review process, and an aspect we have been trying to address is expectations around homework.

There are many different views around homework, what children should be expected to do and whether homework should even exist at all. There is research both for and against homework and many parents will have their own view, so we felt it was important to have shared expectations across the school for clarity for parents.

Firstly, our view is that **home time for children first and foremost is family time**. We know that parents enjoy the opportunity to spend time with their children after work and school. Having pressure to complete work set by school can often cause stress and conflict, taking away from what should be a relaxed and fun time. Spending time with your children, playing games, going for walks or bikes, reading a story, helping cook dinner or carrying out jobs are all opportunities to learn and grow.

Secondly, we know that after a long day of 'formal learning' at school, **children need time to unwind and relax, and most importantly to play**. Playing with friends or siblings gives children the chance to develop relationships, conflict resolution and to problem solve, as well as to be happy (when not arguing!).

What Woodbury School will ask in terms of "Home Learning"

We do recognize the value of some activities that can be carried out at home, which can support learning at school and which parents can enjoy doing with their children.

The most obvious of these is reading. We will continue to give reading material out to children in Year 1-3 classes. In Year 4-6, reading material can be requested by parents who can also chat with the teacher to see which sort of reading material their child should be getting from both the town library and our school library during weekly visits. The purpose of this reading is to build up mileage to develop their fluency and understanding, and also importantly to foster a love of reading and being read to.

Maths basic facts and times tables practice can also support your child's learning. Rather than repetitive rote learning, this is far more valuable to real-life contexts. For example, recognizing prices or adding values when shopping, measuring ingredients when cooking, telling the time, etc...

We ask also that students and parents share pictures or videos of any exciting activities they may have carried out at home, or any "discoveries" they may have made, on Dojo, so these can be followed up or shared in class.

Further Support

We understand that some parents would like further activities that their children may be interested in exploring that can help with their learning. During Term 1 we plan on establishing a section of our Woodbury School Website dedicated to activities appropriate to the age and stage of your child. This will include links to reading activities, spelling and word list progressions for different ages, and resources to support basic facts learning in maths. The site will also include useful links to websites with games and activities to reinforce student learning.

Your class teacher will share via Dojo or a sheet that may come home what is expected at each Year Level, as these may be different (e.g students in the junior area of the school may still bring home a "Reading Log" for parents to complete)