

# **HOMEWORK POLICY 2016 – St Rita’s School**

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This year our school is changing our homework policy in accordance with research data on the effectiveness of different types of homework activities in primary schools.

Our new homework policy is outlined below.

## **Style of Homework**

- Students will not be assigned worksheets or other written work unless this matter has been discussed privately between the classroom teacher and parent.
- The activities outlined below do not require a pencil and paper unless this is something a child and/ or parent wants to do.
- In preparation for their transition to High School, Year 6 students will be given additional homework in Term 4.

## **Reading**

- Our school will continue to encourage students to become proficient readers through our home reading program. Home reading is the most important part of any homework program and should be given the highest priority. It is our belief in the past more emphasis was given to the written component.
- We will continue our sight word program in the junior school and/ or where it is deemed necessary by the classroom teacher. This is closely linked with our goal to promote reading as a first priority.
- Home reading diaries ARE NOT to be signed by the students but by the person evidencing their reading.
- Early in 2016 a PD will be available for parents to attend on developing reading strategies and sound practice.

## **Spelling**

- Sample spelling words will continue to be sent home for those students doing the Spelling Mastery program (Years 1-6). As mentioned last year, these words are not necessarily the words students are tested on as part of this program. Rather they are words that practice a similar rule or part of word (morphograph). This year, teachers will provide a list of sample activities that can be used to practice spelling words.
- Students will not be required to write out their spelling words or to submit anything else as proof of practice.

## Maths

- Teachers
- will provide individual “Basic Facts cards” to develop automaticity in Number. This is based on a Basic Facts ladder, which progressively outlines the number facts required from Prep through to Year 6.
- In the first few weeks of school, students from Year 1 to Year 6 will be tested on their Basic Facts knowledge. Based on this result, each student will be assigned a “Basic Facts card” to practice orally at home. Students will be tested on their card on a weekly basis at school. If they have passed that level on the Basic Facts ladder, they will be given the next card for the following week.
- Basic Facts homework will stop for those students who have achieved the basic facts required for their year level and the year level above (it is not expected that all students will be extended this far).
- Although participating in the Basic Facts program, Prep students will automatically start on Step 1. However, it is expected students will progress at different rates.
- This system has been used in a wide range of schools and focuses on meeting individual needs; a Basic Facts card is based on each student’s actual level rather than giving the whole class the same thing for homework.
- **Although tested weekly, certain Basic Facts cards may take longer than one week to learn and this is fine. We encourage students to develop their basic facts skills at their own pace.**
- It is important to note that students will need to continue to practice the content of previous cards as these will be retested to ensure the facts are retained.
- Basic Facts cards will be sent home as homework from Week 4.

In Week 2, classroom teachers will be hosting classroom meetings. If you have any questions about homework expectations for your child, please notify your teacher at your class meeting.

Kind regards

Vicki Conomo

Principal