

Research clearly indicates that homework in primary school has minimal to no effect on student learning and as such, homework at Madora Bay Primary School is not encouraged. The exception to this is reading at home which we encourage all students to participate in regularly. We may also suggest some further practice of key skills to help children consolidate important learning.

We recommend that children engage in reading at home for 10-30 minutes per day, depending on their age and reading ability. In the early years, this will focus on children reading decodable texts. Unlike predictable texts, which focus on repetition of memorised words, decodable texts provide opportunities for children to practise decoding, and build fluency and accuracy. These texts support our school's synthetic phonics approach which teaches children to blend sounds into words. In the younger years, 10-15 minutes of reading at home per day is ideal. Once children develop their fluency and comprehension, up to 30 minutes of reading is encouraged.

It is important that children comprehend what they are reading and can retell the main points of the text. This enables them to read for meaning and use their reading skills to learn more about the world. Asking them questions about what they have read, including questions, where they have to infer meaning, will strongly support the development of their comprehension skills. Your child's class teacher can help with this. Reading a range of texts with your child or to your child can also help them to develop those vital comprehension skills. You could include listening to and discussing audio books to help your child develop their imagination and love of literature.

If parents would like to engage their child with additional learning at home, we strongly encourage a 'real world' approach. For example, helping with cooking is a wonderful opportunity to positively reinforce reading, oral language and measurement skills. Similarly, building a cubby, gardening or putting on a play can all support the development of both academic, social and physical skills. Such activities have been found to positively support children's brain development and mental health by connecting school-based learning, memory and understanding with real world activities.

Teachers will not provide homework for students taking family holidays during term time.