

Gisborne Primary School Homework Guide for Parents

Vision: For the whole school community to be engaged in a home/school partnership where everyone understands and values the importance of home learning to establish life-long learning habits.

Home tasks:

1. Help children develop positive study skills and habits that will serve them well throughout life.
2. Promote independence, self-regulation and encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning.
3. Build from short, rote learning and practise of skills in the early years to multi-step tasks that integrate learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects. Skills are always taught at school and tasks broken down so that students can complete small sections independently at home.
4. Have differentiated expectations for a range of learning abilities.
5. Should be short and structured to achieve a balance at home between physical activity, family time and other interests.
6. Provide a window into children's learning and help parents to understand their child's learning strengths and challenges.
7. Allow for communication about lifelong learning between parents and their children.
8. Encourage parents to find ways to spark their child's enthusiasm and engagement in their education.

Homework may consist of various tasks such as:

1. **Daily reading** - this is an essential element that improves learning in every curriculum area and builds vocabulary.
2. **Readers' Notebook** - using a readers' notebook 1-2 times per week to record deeper thinking / opinions about texts, helps to develop critical thinking skills and provides a record of literacy and SEL growth over the year.
3. **Efficiency / Fluency tasks** - short, quick tasks that assist students to master spelling codes and maths facts which will support class learning (E.g. times tables, number facts)
4. **Review tasks** - Short 10-minute tasks designed to review and practise what has been covered in class. These can be shared with parents to help promote a strong home/school partnership
5. **Preparation tasks** - These are tasks that help your child to prepare for the next day's class
6. **Extension tasks** - These are activities that allow your child to extend learning by applying skills to situations in everyday life.

Activities that build 21st Century independent learners – especially for senior primary students:

1. Tasks that give your child the opportunity to practise research skills learnt at school to find resources, reference materials on web sites and at community libraries.
2. Tasks that encourage your child to explore subjects more fully than classroom time permits.
3. Multi-step tasks that integrate learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects. Skills are always taught at school and tasks broken down so that students can complete small sections independently at home. Expectations are differentiated for a range of learning abilities.
4. Tasks that provide extension for highly able students such as completing problem solving in Maths Olympiad, completing Writers' Group pieces for publishing or rehearsing oral presentations for class or assembly.