



It's about the learning NOT the work ...

Those of you who attended the parent information nights at the beginning of the year will know that this year we have a new approach to home learning.

You will notice firstly that we refer to it as home *learning* rather than home *work*. This is very intentional. At home, and at school, we like students to be engaged in *learning* rather than simply completing *work*.

For this reason home learning will only be given when it has a direct link to learning that is happening in the classroom and will generally consist of tasks that cannot easily be completed at school, for example collecting data on your home's energy use, measuring the floor space of a bedroom or watching a short video clip for an activity the next day.

Home learning tasks might also involve children completing tasks such as helping to plan and cook a meal or starting to learn something new like changing a bike tyre, setting the table and so on. A very good starting point would be helping your children to determine what is recyclable and what isn't.

Reading, or being read to, should remain a constant but there are times when this is not possible and that's OK. Families are busy and it is important that time together be enjoyable and as stress free as possible.

There is strong evidence that homework at the primary school level has little impact on academic performance. Children get greater benefits if you take the time to play family games, discuss news items from the newspaper or TV, visit places of social, historic or natural interest, cook together, garden together or build together. These activities make learning interesting and enjoyable and encourage children to see the value in becoming lifelong learners.

As always, if you would like to discuss this further, please come in and see me or talk to your child's teacher.

Linda Rippingille

Teachers who love teaching, teach children to love learning.