

Making Friends	Eco Friendly	Responsible	Respect	Yes we can!	Learning Outdoors	Enjoy a healthy lifestyle	Exciting Opportunities
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## Merrylee Primary School

### Homework Policy

Merrylee Primary School recognises the importance of aligning homework practices with current educational research and the needs of our learners and their families. After consulting with parents at the end of the 2023-2024 school year, it became evident that while opinions on the continuation of homework varied, the existing approach required significant adjustments. This policy outlines our new approach to homework, ensuring it is purposeful, targeted, and manageable within the context of our learners' busy lives. We are not advocating a completely 'no homework' approach but one that is responsive to the needs of our learners.

#### Rationale

At Merrylee Primary School, we believe that learners should develop a love for learning that comes from within, rather than feeling compelled to complete assignments for external rewards or to avoid negative consequences. By removing the requirement for regular homework, we encourage learners to take ownership of their learning, pursue topics of interest, and engage in reading for enjoyment—all of which are more likely to cultivate a lifelong passion for learning.

The well-being of our learners is a top priority. Many children have busy schedules outside of school, filled with extracurricular activities, family time, and much-needed rest. By not issuing generic, weekly homework, we help to ensure that learners have the time to relax, pursue personal interests, and spend quality time with their families. This approach aligns with our commitment to nurturing the whole child and promoting a healthy balance between school and home life.

Instead of assigning generic homework tasks, we focus on building strong communication between school and home through regular updates and curriculum newsletters. This allows parents to understand what their children are learning and provides them with the tools to support this learning in ways that fit their family's schedule and needs. This approach fosters a more collaborative relationship between parents and teachers, ensuring that support is targeted and meaningful. Any additional support required by individual learners can be provided through targeted interventions, rather than one-size-fits-all homework tasks.

#### Key Principles:

##### Parental Involvement and Communication:

- Homework will no longer be assigned in a generic, weekly format (e.g., spelling lists, numeracy tasks).
- Parents will receive a **termly curriculum newsletter** outlining the key focus areas for learning in mathematics, literacy, health and wellbeing, and other relevant curricular areas. This will enable parents to support their child's learning more effectively.
- **Useful links and resources** will be shared via Seesaw/Showbie, offering additional guidance and support for parents and learners as appropriate.

##### Reading for Enjoyment:

- Reading is strongly encouraged both in and out of school. Primary 1 learners will continue to have specific tasks to support phonic learning and practice.



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- Learners will have access to class and school library books, which they are encouraged to take home. While guided reading resources (e.g., PM Literacy books) will be used in class, supplementary materials such as Storyworld and Literacy World may be sent home, depending on the child's needs and school decisions.

### Targeted Support:

- Home learning support may be provided for learners to develop specific skills. This support will be determined through careful analysis of summative and formative assessment data.
- Small groups of learners who need reinforcement in areas like phonics or spelling rules will receive targeted support, coordinated by teaching staff and the senior leadership team.

### Project Work for Senior Pupils:

- As part of the transition to secondary education, Primary 7 learners will undertake a **research project** in Term 4. This will help them develop personal research and presentation skills, preparing them for future academic challenges.

### Flexibility and Responsiveness:

- The school will remain flexible and responsive to the needs of all learners. If parents have specific concerns about their child's learning or progress, the school will address these concerns in line with professional understanding and research.
- The school does not provide homework for learners absent due to family holidays or other non-essential reasons. In cases of illness, learners should focus on recovery, and missed work will be addressed upon their return.



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