

Homework at St. Joseph's Primary School

At St. Joseph's, homework is designed to support learning, wellbeing and positive routines at home. Research shows that large amounts of traditional homework in primary school do not improve learning outcomes. Instead, our approach focuses on meaningful activities such as reading, mathematics, real-life learning and family engagement, helping students develop strong habits that support both learning and wellbeing.

Reading

Reading is essential for children's learning and success across all areas of the curriculum. It supports comprehension, writing, vocabulary development and confidence, while also building imagination and a love of learning.

Reading to, with and by your child helps strengthen these skills. Being read to develops language, reading together builds fluency and understanding, and talking about books supports comprehension.

We encourage families to visit their local library and borrow hard copy books, to help children focus and engage. Students are also encouraged to visit our school Library Club to borrow books regularly and explore new texts.

Regular reading at home, even for a short time, has a powerful impact on children's progress and lifelong reading habits.

Phonics at Our School – Read Write Inc (Prep-Year 2)

At our school, we use the Read Write Inc. program to teach phonics and support early reading. To help families continue this learning at home, students have access to the online portals. Access will be provided after the first grouping cycle each year.

Maths

At our school, Mathematics home learning provides students with the opportunity to reinforce and strengthen the learning completed in class through engaging and purposeful maths games.

Families are encouraged to use the Maths at Home resource to support mathematics practise.

This resource includes a range of interactive and practical maths games designed to build fluency, confidence and problem-solving skills. The activities align with classroom learning and focus on practising key concepts rather than introducing new content.

Life Skill and Real-World Learning Activities

Life skills are an essential part of a child's development. Homework provides an opportunity for students to practise skills that build independence, responsibility and confidence in everyday situations.

Examples of life skill activities may include:

- Cooking or baking with a parent or carer (reading recipes, measuring ingredients)
- Helping prepare lunches or family meals
- Managing personal belongings (packing bags, organising materials)
- Helping with household tasks (sorting washing, tidying spaces)
- Budgeting activities (shopping lists, comparing prices)
- Gardening or caring for pets
- Planning schedules or routines
- Counting money and making small purchases
- Typing practice
- Participating in physical activity (walking, sport, bike riding etc.)

These activities support learning in literacy, numeracy and social development while strengthening family connections.

Our goal is for homework to support learning, engagement, and family life, not compete with it.