OLOW HOMEWORK POLICY 2013

Always Reading - Forever Learning

Our 2013 OLOW Homework Policy takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.

The responsibility for overseeing homework lies essentially with the parents. Homework need not be a cause of stress or upset for children or parents. The emphasis should always be placed on the learning value.

Our policy provides students with opportunities to:

- consolidate the learning they have experienced at school in their learning spaces.
- pattern behaviour for lifelong learning beyond school.
- involve family members in their learning.
- develop learning based on personal interest and enjoyment.
- acquire independence in study habits.

RATIONALE

Our Lady of the Way places a great focus and energy on Literacy and in particular the development of highly effective readers. We desire that our students develop a passion for reading. We see reading as a foundational skill to powerful learning.

Why an emphasis on reading? What are the benefits of reading?

Research tells us that reading and being read to has the potential to:

- improve comprehension, students who read extensively learn reading strategies and increase their reading rates.
- allow students to make gains in overall language proficiency.
- increase vocabulary knowledge.
- improve writing skills.
- improve understanding of mathematical concepts and problem-solving.

There are three types of OLOW Homework Policy activities through Reading:

1. Practice reading which helps students to remember and practise newly acquired skills - such as home readers, choosing literature to read for pleasure and learning sight words.

2. Preparatory reading requires students to source and read background information to prepare them for future learning - such as reading an article on the Gold Rush in preparation for a lesson in Australian history.

3. Extension reading encourages students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. For example this reading would include researching local news or retrieving information from the Internet.
Implementation of Always Reading - Forever Learning

FOR KINDERGARTEN – YEAR 2

In K-2 our homework policy involves the learning of sight words and reading a variety of home readers and quality literature. In these foundational years children become better readers by practising reading. Children may also pursue other learning activities with their families. The time suggested for this is approximately 15 – 30 minutes daily.

FOR YEARS 3 - 6

In Years 3-6 our homework policy involves reading a variety of text including visual information, maps, tables, charts, diagrams, animations, images that embrace media and digital texts. Reading will be focussed across all areas of the curriculum. Teachers will provide guidance and assistance to students in choosing suitable reading material. Children may also choose to pursue other learning activities with their families as well as continue with their learning topics from school. The time suggested for this is approximately 30 – 60 minutes daily.

WHAT CAN PARENTS/CAREGIVERS DO TO ASSIST?

- Take into account the need for your son/daughter to have a balanced lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits.
- Take an active interest in your child’s reading.
- Be a good role model and read with and to your child.
- Support your child in setting aside time each day for reading.
- Provide a dedicated place and routine for reading if possible.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about your child’s approach and motivation to reading.

Please see the attached “Always Reading - Forever Learning” activities you may wish to do with your children.
### OUTINGS
Help plan a holiday/trip: research attractions, compare and contrast the costs, calculate daily distances if driving.

Grocery shopping: read ingredients to help choose the healthiest products for the best prices, find products that you have coupons for, figure out best deal between sizes of items.

Going shopping and computing how much 25/30/50% off would be on the sale price of clothes.

Go to a play or musical.

While in the car make up words using the letters and add up the numbers from the surrounding number plates.

### SPORT
Play sports or after school activities.

Establish daily exercise plan: calculate distance walked, swam, biked, etc. and how many calories are used.

Spell words or do multiplication tables as you jump on a trampoline- one letter/number per jump.

Spell words or do multiplication tables as you play basketball. One letter/number per shot.

Spell words or do multiplication tables as you jump rope.

### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
Swimming.

Relay races.

Learn and perform magic tricks.

Hopscotch.

Puddle jumping.

Go camping.

Name that rock.

Name that plant.

Name that insect.

### Always Reading - Forever Learning

#### MATHEMATICS
Use homemade pizza, pie, pieces of bread to work on fractions.

Use a fish tank to discuss conversions: litres to gallons.

Create items for an "Estimation Table" where kids "estimate" how many items are in different containers with colorful objects.

For multiplication facts, I have small blocks with multiplication factors on them.

Addition and subtraction of food on their plate during dinner. It works really well using vegetables!

Measure the time it takes to count to ten, one hundred, one thousand etc.

Count the steps it takes you to get to different locations in your house from the front door.

#### ARTS AND CRAFTS
Make a simple scribble and the other person turns it into a completed composition.

Origami (Japanese paper folding).

Make a family banner using handprints to tell about a family member.

Write a script from their favorite book, do research on the web to find out how to make puppets and produce a puppet show.

Build models, such as birdhouses, cars, etc. This activity requires organization tools, measuring, cutting, creativity, art, painting, neatness; the list goes on, and at the end, they have something they created, that can be used or enjoyed by them, birds, etc.

Create mosaics from bits of coloured paper.

Make birthday cards for relatives: recycle objects around the house and include a picture of the kids in the card to make the card extra special.

#### GAMES & ACTIVITIES
Reading out loud to each other.

Email relatives: this makes writing and spelling words fun.

Tic tac toe.

Checkers.

Watch a movie or show together on and talk about it after.

Cook as a family: include meal planning within a budget (cost, calories, nutrition), time it takes to create meal, etc.

Make a graph of TV/Video time for a month. Compare with sleeping and/or exercise.

Read the newspaper.

Junior Monopoly/Original Monopoly.

Read a book together, then watch the movie - compare/contrast the contents.