

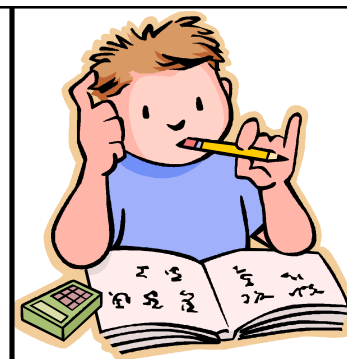


Houghton Valley School Mission Statement

INSPIRATION, CHALLENGE, ACHIEVEMENT
TE HIRINGA, TE WEROHIA, TE WHAKATUTUKITANGA

HOMework

Guidelines



What if my child is just too busy or tired or sick?

We do not expect children to do homework if they are not fit to do so, as it will become a negative experience! But we do appreciate you letting us know this. Please contact your child's teacher by phone, email or by writing a note on paper or in your child's homework book.

What happens if children do not hand in homework and their parents have not contacted their teacher?

Particularly with senior children, the teacher may choose to supervise a lunchtime 'homework club' to help children complete the parts of the homework that they have been unable to complete at home.

What should parents do if homework causes conflict?

While a little gentle pressure to complete homework on time and to a good standard is encouraged, teachers do not want homework to be the source of major family conflict. Teachers set the homework, so they will follow up any completion issues. In the first instance it would be advisable to let them know that the homework is causing stress. The teacher will then chat to your child to see if they can help in any way. If the homework is very 'do-able' then the teacher may give up part of his/her lunchtime to work through it with the child.

What should parents do if they don't want their child to do homework because they don't think it is worthwhile?

Contact your child's teacher by phone, email or by writing a note to let them know that your child won't be doing the homework.

The teaching staff of Houghton Valley School assembled this pamphlet in response to questions from parents and in response to our 2010 survey of parents and children. We hope that it assists in outlining the school's homework expectations and procedures. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the Principal for clarification.

See our 'Resources for Parents and Teachers' page on the school website www.houghton.school.nz for further information about homework.

Why do the teachers set homework?

They do this to:

- provide a link between home and school
- provide an opportunity for parents and children to work together
- encourage the development of time management, resilience, perseverance
- provide an opportunity to practise skills learnt at school in a different environment
- extend school-related learning beyond the walls of the classroom
- help prepare children for school life beyond HVS
- use repetition to reinforce skills

What are some examples of types of homework that children may be asked to do?

- reading practice
- writing – all types
- handwriting practice
- basic research
- making and construction
- spelling skills
- presentation skills
- maths practice
- oral language activities
- visual art

What should I do when my child does their homework well?

Tell him that you think they he is amazing and that you are proud of him. When this happens consistently then we suggest you give him a small reward.

How much time should my child spend on homework each week? (over 4 evenings)

As a guide:

YEAR 1: reading practice

YEARS 2 and 3:

15—20 mins per night (excluding reading)

YEARS 4, 5 and 6:

20—30 mins per night (excluding reading)

Some children may take longer than others to do homework tasks. Particularly at the senior level, some weeks' assignments may be longer than others. We want children to have an active life outside school and don't expect them to be slaves to homework, so if it seems to be too much, please let the teacher know by phone, email or by writing a note on paper or in your child's homework book. If it's taking too long, you may want to get your child to complete just part of the homework.

What should I do if I have any concerns about the content of the homework?

Contact your child's teacher by phone, email or by writing a note on paper or in your child's homework book. On the other hand, if you think the homework is great, let the teacher know. Both types of feedback are useful.

How much help should I give my child?

This depends on the age and class level. As a general rule your child should be able to do the homework with minimal direct input. If you want to help, please avoid 'taking over' or doing the homework yourself. Helping your child to organise his/her time so that he/she can complete the tasks comfortably would be beneficial.