



**CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE**
G E E L O N G

28th April, 2017

Dear Parents,

In alignment with the recent whole College review of our approach to Home Learning (Homework), the Junior School has carried out an extensive reevaluation of the home learning set for our young students. This has included a focus on ensuring that our policy and practice are more reflective of current educational research. The revised expectations for home learning at Junior School are as follows:

- Nightly Home Reading will continue to be an expectation at every year level
- Students in Prep will continue to practise their letters and high frequency 'sight' words
- Students will prepare for a presentation to their class each term. This may take the form of a show and share item, a mini research item, a poetry recital, classroom devotional item, an item of personal interest 'passion project' etc.
- At times, in consultation with parents, teachers may assign students specific home learning tasks to consolidate an area of their learning. This may include activities such as additional research in an area of interest, participating in particular family games or activities, journaling etc. In cases where students are to be absent from school for an extended period, other relevant learning tasks may be set as appropriate.

Although research finds minimal correlation between time spent on a regime of repetitive and 'busy' homework with the academic performance for children in the Junior years, there can be important benefits derived from children participating in a balanced home learning program:

- Home learning tasks provide an opportunity for parents to see what their children are doing at school and the level at which their children working. It is another way of inviting parents into their child's education.
- Home learning tasks provide for children to develop some of the fundamental skills of time management, self discipline and self reliance.

The revised home learning expectations are reflective of the current research and literature on the value and relevance of home learning within the Junior years:

Effective homework:

- should not be set as a punitive measure ie. Children having to complete work they should have completed in the classroom.
- should be a consolidation of learning already attained so that it is readily accessible and achievable by each student. (This can relate to skills ie. Research, as well as knowledge)
- should reflect the level of ability of each student. It should not be stressful or take too long to complete
- should be engaging for students and provide stimulus and opportunity for personal investigation and research
- should not be constrained by measures of time. Research suggests that mandating a particular amount of time for young students to spend on home learning can detract from the engagement and the real learning that can occur

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- should not be 'busy' work which carries little educational worth but rather, it should promote thinking, questioning, pursuit of personal interests
- should not be completed by parents nor add stress to parent/child relationships

To ensure that parents continue to be invited into the home learning 'space' of their children, at the beginning of each term, teachers will send out information outlining the topic areas to be covered in each subject area along with relevant online and other resources that students and their parents may choose to utilize for additional practice and consolidation of skills and knowledge. This information for Term 2 will be sent out in the coming days by the teachers at each year level.

As partners in this new approach to our home learning program, we greatly value and appreciate your support during this transitional phase. Should you have any queries, please feel welcome to contact your child's home room teacher.

Yours sincerely,



Marion Nott
Head of Junior School