

**Discovery School**  
**"Educating for successful living"**  
**"Te whakaako kia momoho ai, kia ora ai"**

**Exploration Homework 2010**

**Wednesday 03 February**

Dear Parents/Caregivers

An explanation of the homework programme and our expectations follows:

The homework grid is based on the research of Ian Lillico, an Australian educational researcher. The homework grid endeavours to:

- continue to practise basic literacy and numeracy skills as part of homework
- provide a range of interesting homework activities which will not include parents needing to teach their children new skills (but will encourage parent/child bonding)
- address the feeling that homework has become a chore and a battle in some families.
- promote out of school exercise with our children
- help develop the habit of helping around the home on a regular basis
- acknowledge that a large number of our children are involved in after school, sports, arts, music etc and find it difficult to timetable all the homework requirements Monday to Thursday
- develop better communication between our older children and their parents regarding what happens at school

Each fortnight children are issued with a grid similar to the one below. This is only an example. The grid which will be sent home each fortnight is more detailed.

<b>Read a variety of books, including school books</b>	<b>Be read to by another member of the family</b>	<b>Shopping with parents</b>
<b>Physical activity/sport training</b>	<b>Housework</b>	<b>Arts and crafts/Design and layout</b>
<b>Teach your parents something you were taught at school</b>	<b>Play a game with an adult</b>	<b>Assignment/project research</b>
<b>Maintenance of spelling and basic facts/numeracy knowledge</b>	<b>Use computer for work</b>	<b>Cultural/Music practice</b>

- The grid is issued on a fortnightly basis, given out on either Monday (KF/SJ classes) or Friday (CM class) and returned on Friday. Please help your child remember to return their homework book - a note on the calendar every second Thursday may be useful.

- Each grid sector requires a minimum of 10 minutes work over the fortnight. The suggested times are a **MINIMUM**. There is absolutely no problem with children spending more time in some sections if they are interested in it.
- Three sections are to be done nightly:
  - Reading
  - Housework
  - Maintenance (generally spelling and/or basic facts/numeracy knowledge practise)
- Some activities are specified explicitly by the teacher while others are more open-ended to allow choice for students.
- Some of the sections are "controlled" by teachers - assignments etc - and some are controlled by parents. YES! You can stipulate what housework you want them to do!
- Parents who want to extend students in various areas can set more time and activities. ***This is your responsibility***, although we are happy to make suggestions as to what activities you could use.
- Parents sign each sector to show that the specified work has been completed to an acceptable level.
- Each fortnight the grids are checked by teachers and students share their experiences.
- If your child is absent or has misplaced their homework grid, a master copy can be printed from the school website [www.discovery.school.nz](http://www.discovery.school.nz) under the homework section.

Please feel free to pop in if you have any questions or thoughts about your child's homework.

Regards,

Natalie Francis  
Sarah Jenner  
Carl McManaway  
Kylie Foot