



Allenton School

Together we learn and grow

Me akotahi hei oranga mā te katoa



SENIOR AREA HOME LEARNING

In the Senior Area we would like children to focus on reading, spelling and basic number facts for their home learning. We see this as being beneficial for all concerned. There is a lot of research in regards to the effect of 'homework' on student achievement and very little of that research shows that at primary school level 'homework' improves achievement.



We want children to be developing other competencies – for example, joining clubs, joining sports teams, being involved in a range of activities which could be as simple as playing with friends and/or siblings. We encourage you to spend time doing things at home with your child (eg baking scones, go for a bike ride, do a science experiment) which help them to develop and practice essential academic and social skills.

We also want them to develop their self-management skills by practicing the things that they have done at school that they know they need to work on to improve (eg basic facts, spelling and reading mileage).

We are also mindful of the stress homework frequently creates when exhausted parents and children battle and argue their way through the set homework assignments. We would rather you had time to have a positive discussion with your child as to how their day went. Attached are some questions you could ask your child about their learning instead of just "How was your day?"

READING

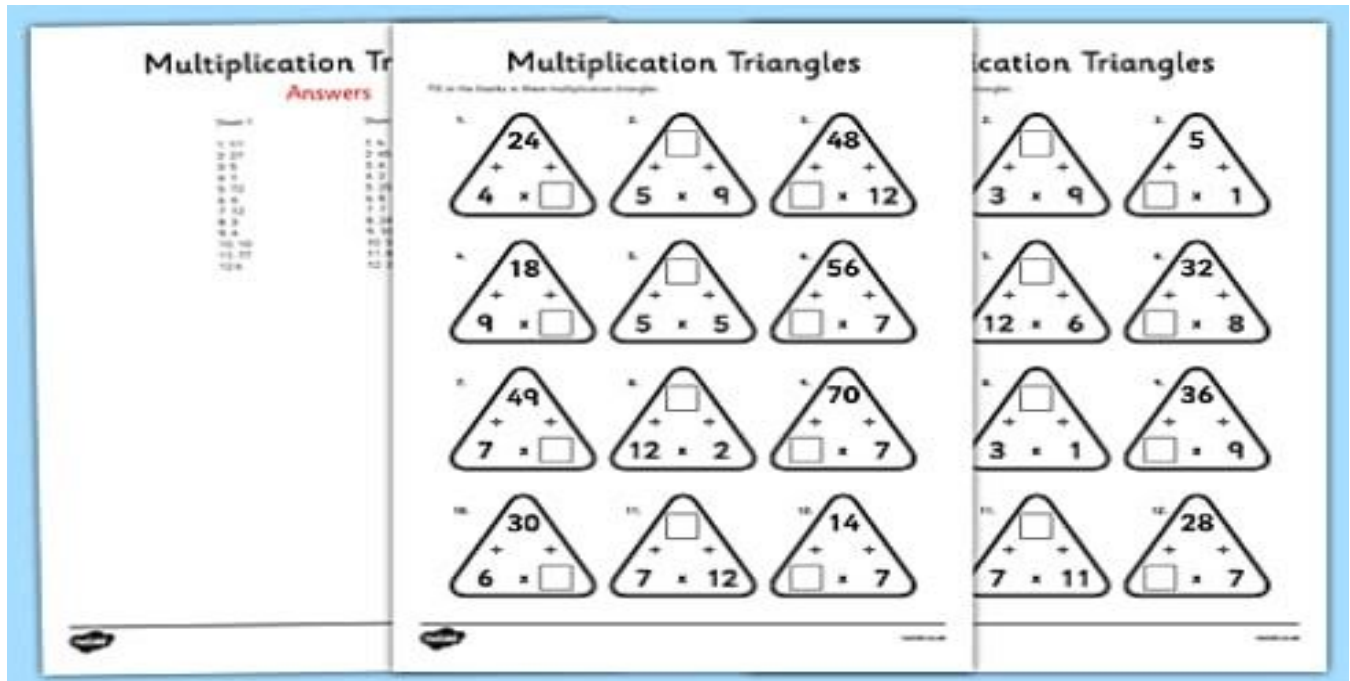
Every child read for at least 20 minutes each night. Ideally this would include a mixture over the week of you reading with your child, taking turns readings pages/paragraphs/chapters, you reading to your child or them reading on their own. Books from the school library can be taken home along with other books that are in the classroom. The Ashburton Public Library is free to join and I would encourage you to make use of this great resource. If you have difficulty finding suitable books I can help. You may wish to set up a reading tick chart for your child to help them monitor their reading and decide together a small incentive to help them remain on track with their reading at home.

SPELLING

Essential Spelling List words will be our first focus for spelling. During the term children will be learning these words, or words appropriate to them, in class usually in groups of 10 words, by doing a range of spelling and word study activities as part of their Daily 5. Children will re-test their errors and then learning will continue as before. You can help at home by also working with your child on any words sent home in a notebook or on a highlighted list. Please ensure that your child brings this notebook back to school each day as it also contains their logins and passwords for commonly used sites within the classroom.

BASIC FACTS

By Year 5 and 6 children need to know their addition and subtraction facts to 20 and be developing speed and accuracy with all of their times tables using both multiplication and division facts. You can help them at home by encouraging the learning of these facts. A good way to do this is on a triangular cards such as those over the page. This allows them to always see the connection between multiplication and division. The order for learning times tables is 2x, 5x, 10x, 3x, 4x, 6x, 7x, 8x, 9x



DRIVE

Students may also have work that they can continue or finish at home by accessing their Google account and going into their Drive. Please be mindful of monitoring your child's internet usage when on devices at home as we have filtering software at school. Spend some time with your child getting them to show you work that they have been doing at school which is stored in their Drive.

CLASS BLOG

Each class has a blog where classroom learning and happenings are documented. Spend some time with your child looking at their class and other classes blogs. Some class sites have Learning Links to websites related to classroom work or weekly challenges for you to try. These blogs can be accessed via the school website within the next few weeks.

STUDENT BLOGS

Over coming weeks students in the Senior Area will be setting up their own blogs to share their learning and successes with family and friends. Spend time with your child looking at their work and talking about their learning. We encourage you to comment on their work - it gives them great feedback and a great boost that people are looking at their work.

INDIVIDUAL CLASSROOM TASKS

Teachers may also set individual classroom tasks to be completed at home.