

# HOW CAN I HELP WITH MY CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME?

Parents often ask how they might help with their children's learning at home. The following insights from our classroom teachers provide a good place to start.

## Junior level (Years 0-3)

- Read to your children.
- Discuss the stories and pictures with them.
- Make a daily practice of them reading the books from their book-bags to a capable reader.
- Don't cover up the pictures; they are there to assist the children.
- Ensure that they practise reading their basic word sheets every day.
- Make homework time a positive and enjoyable one-on-one time with your child.
- Praise their efforts.
- Help them memorise their memory verse each day.
- Encourage time on Mathletics at home – this is a really useful and easy way for children to improve in their Mathematics.
- Parents can ask their children the following questions:
  - What are you learning and why?
  - Is there anything you are really good at?
  - Is there anything you are finding tricky? What could we do to fix that?

If parents ask their children these questions periodically, it will get the children to think about what they are learning! It also promotes ownership of learning.

- Take them to the library so they have a wide variety of books available to read – this really helps children to improve and is particularly important for children who reach Year 4 and above who are not taking a book home each night to read, but might still be struggling readers.

These are some good ideas to think about as a family.

## Middle/upper primary (Years 4-8)

Many of the comments under junior primary still apply.

## Secondary level (Years 9-13)

Students will usually have a different teacher for each subject area.

- Ask them if they are clear about what is expected. Encourage them to approach their teacher with any questions or for extra support if they need it.
- You can support them in making sure they are recording their homework in an organised way and that they are up to date in meeting the requirements for assignments.
- Help them to manage their time effectively. Ask them if they have tests coming up they need to prepare for. A wall planner is a good way of managing assignment and test deadlines.
- A quiet, comfortable place to study and a regular routine without distractions is a good start.
- Homework and study expectations will go up from approximately one to three hours per week night during the secondary years. There may need to be discussions around prioritising this over part time jobs and other commitments.
- NCEA happens during Years 11-13 but teachers will start preparing students during junior secondary. Students will further develop independent study research skills and will need to write in their own words while referencing where they obtained their information.
- During the secondary years, they are also transitioning to becoming independent young adults and this will reflect in their approach to learning and to the way they work out their faith. Encourage them in increasingly finding their own answers and making Biblically based choices to some of the difficult questions and issues that will arise during these years.