

# Homework at Shelford Primary

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Shelford Primary School, homework is provided to students each week. Homework provides students with opportunities to consolidate their learning, practise skills, establish behaviours for lifelong learning beyond the classroom and to involve family members in their learning. The setting of homework takes into account the need for students to have a balanced lifestyle; including sufficient time for family, recreation and cultural pursuits

The setting of homework strengthens the links between home and school by providing parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught at school and the progress of their children. Students benefit enormously from participating in conversations at home about their learning by facing challenges, developing resilience and celebrating successes.

It is important for students to establish sound study and work habits and organisational skills that will assist in creating lifelong learners. Homework can also add to a sense of achievement and satisfaction. Homework is considered by Shelford Primary School to be an important part of student learning across all year levels.

## Reading

All students at Shelford Primary School are expected to practice their reading every night. Evidence of this is to be recorded in their diary and brought to school each day.

### Seniors

Typically, students in the senior class are independent readers. They are encouraged to select a book from home, MARC Van or school that fosters their engagement in the reading process and provides them with sufficient challenge. Your child's ability and understanding will be greatly enhanced if you could ask some thoughtful questions about what they have just read. This could include examining,

- A characters thoughts and feelings
- Interesting facts they have discovered
- The role a character plays in the story
- Choices made by the author such as setting, language & text type
- Humorous inferences
- Misunderstood phrases and words
- Identifying elements of text such as nouns, verbs adjectives, punctuation etc

### Juniors

Students in the junior class are typically less independent readers - especially those in the lower years. Levelled readers will be sent home at the beginning of every week with the expectation that they read a levelled text every night. This is so that each child

is practicing their reading skills at the appropriate level without having to worry if the text will be too hard/easy for them to decode or comprehend. We also encourage students to read other texts they are passionate about and engaged in.

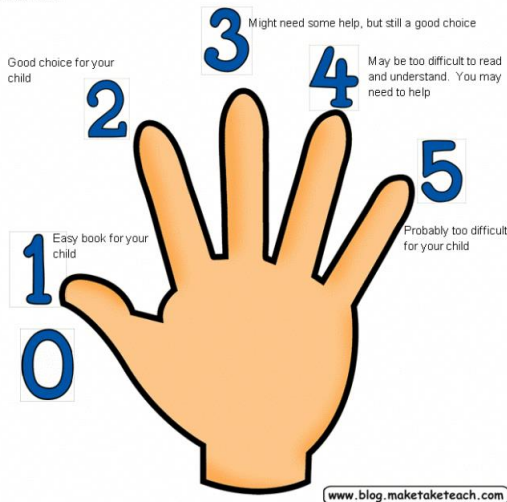
If reading independent texts, students are encouraged to select 'good fit books'. These are books that interest the students and are at a level that can be comprehended.

Just as with the seniors, it is also beneficial to ask follow up questions or to ask them to do a detailed retell of the book your child just read to help enhance their understanding and comprehension.

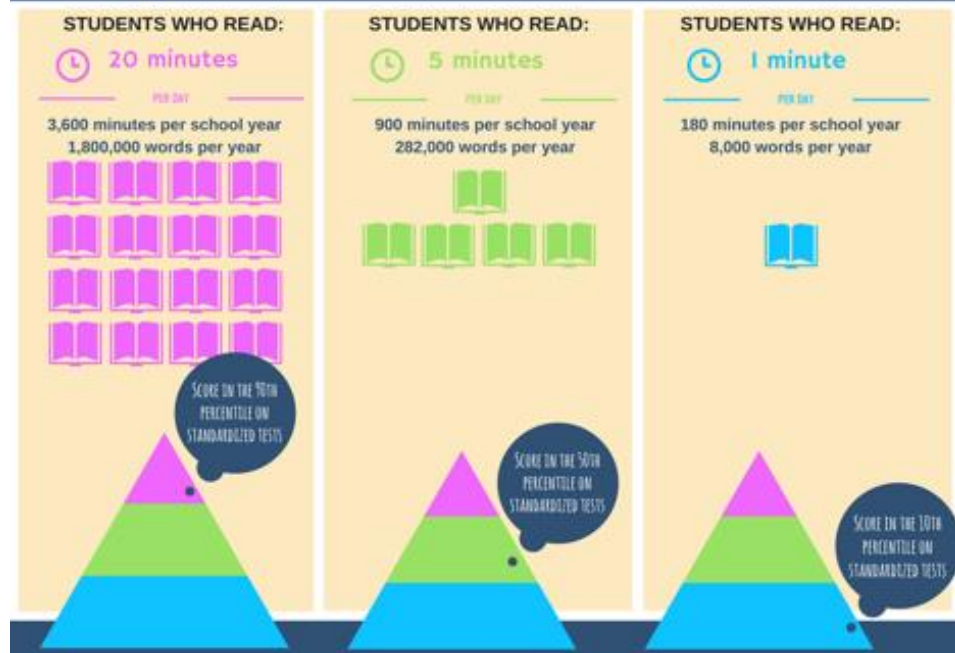
## Finding Right Fit Books

A "right fit" book is a book that your child can enjoy reading on their own. Reading just right books helps your child develop as a reader. To find a book that is just the right fit for your child, try using the five finger test.

Here's how it works: Turn to a page in the middle of the book. As your child reads, hold up a finger for every word he/she doesn't know. Use the following guidelines:



## Why read 20 minutes at home?



## Home Reading with Emergent Readers

**Remember that this activity is to help me practice my reading skills  
NOT to challenge me.**

- **I need to practice;**
  - Reading fluently
  - Looking at sounds in words (beginning and ending)
  - Self correcting when I make an error
  - Using punctuation correctly (full stops and commas)
- **Talking about the title and what the story might be about is very helpful.**
- **Let me PAUSE. Give me time to work out unknown words or time to notice my errors. You can help me by asking;**
  - Did that make sense
  - Did that sound right
  - Does that look right
  - Go back to the start of the sentence and try again
- **If this doesn't help ask;**
  - What would make sense
  - What would sound right
  - What would look right
  - As a last resort you may help me to sound out the word
- **Discuss the book and what it was about when finished.**

**Remember to give your child lots of praise when they self correct or read well**

## Spelling

Students in the senior class are tested on a new set of words every Monday. Students will write any misspelt words in their diary to practice at home throughout the week.

In the Junior classroom we will be following the Sound Waves spelling program, which explicitly teaches phoneme-grapheme (sound/letter) relationships and spelling and vocabulary concepts. This is paired with targeted practice that allows students to apply their knowledge and skills that mirror what has been taught in lessons.

Students will not be set spelling homework tasks unless there is sufficient need or it is felt your child needs extra practice and support at home. If so, this will be communicated by the classroom teacher.

## Maths

Students in both the senior and junior class will be set activities each week that directly link to their learning needs. These tasks are designed to consolidate and strengthen their understanding of concepts covered in class.

Typically, maths activities will be set on Mathletics/Mathseeds or Essential Assessment or provided as a hard copy.

Student login details for all of the online platforms used at school are in your child's diary.

## Homework Overview

	Home Reading	Spelling/Literacy	Maths
Junior	20 mins a night		20 mins a week
Senior	20 mins a night	30 mins a week	30 mins a week