HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONALE
Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

AIMS
- To develop positive study habits
- To develop a responsibility for self-learning
- To support and extend classroom learning

IMPLEMENTATION
- The school’s homework policy will be distributed to parents at the commencement of each school year, on our school website.
- Grade Prep students will be allocated a reading diary.
- Grade 1-2 students will be allocated homework books/ folders and a reading diary.
- Grade 3-6 students will be allocated homework books/ folders and a weekly diary.
- Classroom teachers will set homework appropriate to each child’s level.
- Homework activities should be interesting, simple and where appropriate, open-ended.
- Each set task must be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the current classroom curriculum. Drill activities (ROTE) are to be avoided.
- All homework activities must be assessed with feedback and signed; support provided by teachers.
- Homework will be set / monitored weekly.
- Homework may be set during weekends where weekday tasks have been left uncompleted.

Homework will consist mainly of:

PREP
- reading activities to, with and by parents

GRADE 1 – 2
- reading activities to, with and by parents
- spelling activities
- structured speaking and listening tasks set by the teacher to be completed at home (news)
- simple optional/ extension tasks associated with classroom activities, including numeracy and ICT activities

GRADE 3-4
- reading activities to, with and by parents
- simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities
- gathering of additional information or materials
- spelling
- school apps available on iPads
- times tables
• homework will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day and will not be set on weekends or during holiday periods
• use of weekly diary to record reading and any other parent/teacher communication

GRADE 5 – 6
• reading on a daily basis
• tasks such as continuation of classroom work, projects and assignments, essays and research. Homework will generally not exceed 45 minutes per day, must be coordinated between teachers to avoid excessive workload, and may be set during weekends and school holidays.
• use of technology to complete or practise classroom topics
• use of weekly diary
• it is acceptable for teachers to assign unfinished classroom activities as homework tasks.

OLA’s Homework Policy make allowances for individual differences. The teachers would occasionally expect the children to spend time of an evening finishing work or following up lines of inquiries that have developed at school.

Special homework tasks may also be set. It is expected that children spend time reading each night. Homework is usually given between Monday and Friday unless children are working on set classroom contracts.

Hints for Parents to Give Assistance
1. Know what is expected of your child regarding homework. If you have a query, discuss the matter with the teacher concerned.
2. Make homework time as pleasant as you can. Provide a work area away from the TV. Ensure that it is quiet.
3. Try to establish a regular routine.

The Best Homework
Some of the home work that really makes a difference:
○ Lots and lots of family conversation – story-telling, jokes, discussions about everything.
○ Shared bedtime stories with family members reading to the children.
○ Private reading in bed before lights out.
○ Family games, activities and hobbies.
○ Regular visits to the local library.
○ Outings to all kinds of places of social, historic or nature interest.
○ The kind of imaginative play that comes naturally to children of all ages.

EVALUATION
• This Policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.