Dear Parents,

Students in Grade 5/6 will be receiving fortnightly homework in the form of a grid. There will be nine compulsory tasks and three optional tasks where children are asked to complete one of these tasks.

Our homework tasks have been developed in line with the policy endorsed by the School Council in 2010. Students in grades 5 and 6 are expected to do no more than 30-45 minutes of homework per night, which includes 20 minutes of reading. The aim of homework at Berwick Fields is for students to develop organisational skills and regular study habits, as well as revising skills learnt in class.

Implementation:
Each cell within the grid can represent an amount of time for example- 10 to 20 mins per night. It will usually be handed out on a Monday and be due in the Friday fortnight.

An explanation and expansion of grid items that you may see:

**Reading:** includes reading for pleasure, reading fiction, newspapers, magazines, textbooks, comics and assigned reading of texts set by teachers as class work. It is vital for student's literacy development that they read on a regular basis, regardless of their reading ability.

**Be read to:** Being read to is an essential part of developing the desire to read and bonding with parents. It enables children to imagine and form thoughts in their heads.

**Shopping/Cooking:** This is an active pastime and a very valuable one in gaining a number of life skills eg: shopping- budgeting, selecting, reading item labels and discovering what things cost and value for money.

**Physical activity:** There is a need for young people to have less sedentary lives, get fit and learn active skills that should see them grow into healthier, happier adults. This entry would include all forms of sport and also includes activities with family such as walking, riding a bicycle, bushwalking and walking the dog.

**Helping around the house:** Students will be encouraged to pick up after themselves and assist with activities for the family's benefit such as doing dishes, helping prepare meals, tidying their rooms and other parts of the house or whatever else will be helpful. Outdoor work can include weeding, gardening etc.

**Art:** Making, designing, creating!

**Maths:** It is important for children to not only practice skills that they have learnt at school, but to also use these skills in everyday life. It is really essential that all children know their tables well and can calculate basic facts mentally.

**Teach your parents:** One of the best ways of consolidating what one has learnt is to teach the concept to another. When a child is preparing material to present in this section, it is reinforcing learning of the concept and by verbalising it to another it is further consolidating the learning process.

**Assignments / Project research:** This section is where set assignments with due dates and time factors can be researched. It includes finding out information from the Internet, dictionaries and encyclopaedias, libraries, parents and a host of other sources.

**Use computer for work:**
Some students only use computers for games and ‘chatting’, but they must also learn to use the whole range of services that computers supply including researching information, communicating with family and friends, writing and word processing and using programs to develop a wider range of skills.

When homework is returned students will be provided with feedback in the form of a marking rubric, which is attached. This allows students to know what they need to complete and what we are looking for them to do in order to achieve full marks. Students should be able to use the rubric to assess themselves and see if they have put in their best effort.

Please let us know if you have any feedback on the homework grid. Thank you for your support.

The Grade 5/6 team
Berwick Fields Primary School