



Holiday Homework Guidelines

Implemented: March 2013

Review: March 2015



Parents and carers sometimes ask their child's teacher for homework or school activities for their children to do during holiday breaks taken during the school term. These guidelines provide some suggestions for enjoyable and purposeful activities.

The best learning occurs when the activity has a purpose and is relevant. For this reason, the suggestions listed here, which relate closely to the holiday experience, will be far more meaningful to your child than trying to complete school-related activities provided by the teacher.

Some holidays taken during term time involve extended or overseas travel. We remind parents never to underestimate the value of travel as an educational experience in itself.

Parents need to be aware that NSW Government legislation requires parents to apply to the Principal for an exemption of attendance from school when extended leave is taken during school terms, and that the Principal may only approve such leave in accordance with government guidelines. Parents may obtain an leave exemption application form from our school office or website.

Religious Education

Take the time to pray with your children and discuss your values. They have many opportunities to hear other people's attitudes and values through the media. Sometimes, as parents, we forget to tell them our beliefs! Watch the news with older children and talk about what is happening in the world, discuss this in light of Catholic values.

Visit the local church where you are travelling.

- Identify key parts of the church such as the altar, ambo (lectern), tabernacle and baptismal font
- Discuss how they are similar or different to the parish church at home
- Look at, and discuss any artwork (eg paintings, statues) that you find in the church
- Learn about the story behind the name of the church (eg the life of the saint).

English

Talking and Listening is a very important part of the English curriculum. There are lots of fun ways to pass the time and improve communication skills when travelling.

- Make up stories (eg each family member invents a story about how a town or bridge got its name)
- Memory game – "I went to the shop and I bought a..." Each person keeps adding an item; the person able to recall all the items as the game progresses is the winner
- Lots of purposeful talk about the holiday and points of interest to be enjoyed
- Making up words using the letters of number plates, or making up a phrase using the letters as initials.

Children are always best motivated to read and write when an activity is related to what they are doing.

- Keep a daily journal or blog during the holiday. If children need guidance with this, they can write under simple headings like 'What I did' and 'How I Felt'. Depending on the child's age, drawing and labelling diagrams may be appropriate
- Collect postcards and add them to a journal or scrapbook – with captions
- Take photographs and add them to the holiday blog
- Use every opportunity along the way to read and discuss holiday related literature, eg road signs, timetables, maps and travel brochures.

Mathematics

During every holiday we use lots of Mathematics without even thinking about it.

In the Car:

- Use directories/maps and discuss how to find streets/suburbs, etc.
- Work out together the best way to get from one town to another
- Estimate how long it will take to travel one kilometre
- Play 'I Spy'
- Make tallies of interesting things you see while travelling (How many red cars/petrol stations etc).
- Add the numbers on the number plates of cars.

Going By Air:

- Collect and sort brochures, tickets and pictures to help you plan your trip
- Discuss and learn to read timetables. Try to work out the number of flying hours
- Find out the distance of your trip – how long the trip will take and calculate the average speed of the plane
- Estimate luggage weight

On arrival:

- How many handfuls of sand will fill a bucket? Estimate then check if you are right
- Collect and sort shells according to colour, size and/or shape
- Let the children buy the movie tickets, popcorn, etc and work out change. Compare the difference between adult and child price.
- All sorts of games to encourage problem solving and mathematical skills (Connect 4, Snakes & Ladders, Chess, Chinese Checkers, Monopoly, etc.).

Human Society and Its Environment

Learning about new places and reading information about the history, culture, etc of the holiday destination. Children could make a holiday brochure to tell others about the area visited. (How much have they remembered?) Many places have historical sites, houses and museums worth visiting. After the visit, have the children draw or write about all the things they have learnt.

Science and Technology

- Learning how to use a camera
- Opportunities to cook with discussion about temperature etc.
- Visiting animal sanctuaries, zoos, etc and hearing more about various animals.
- Write an information report about your favourite animal
- Looking at rock pools. How are they formed? What animals live in them, etc
- Talking about weather.

Creative Arts

- Sing-a-long in the car
- Visiting art galleries and learning about different art forms and artists
- Going to the theatre or movies and discussing the performance
- Using paints, crayons, etc to record holiday experiences artistically
- Building sand castles

- Playing charades (drama).

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Holidays are an ideal time to play new games and improve hand-eye coordination and fitness through:

- Ball games (catching, soccer, etc)
- Batting (cricket, softball, etc)
- Swimming
- Developing flexibility on climbing gyms, etc
- Walks and hikes.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

System Documentation

- [Student Attendance - Procedures](#)
- [Student Attendance Exemption - Guidelines](#)
- [Application for Exemption from Attendance at School](#)

Government Documentation

- [Mandatory Attendance Register Codes](#)