

Learning at Home

This information was sent out earlier in the year, but has been updated.



With the school holidays next week, it is an opportune time to remind our community about learning outside of school. **We often find that after a two week break from school, some children go backwards with their learning. This doesn't need to be the case.** As well as being a Principal, I am also a parent of two school-aged children. Here are a few of my thoughts that I wanted to share about learning out of school. Have a read and see if there is anything you require from the school before the holidays start.

1. **Make it fun.** If the learning is too hard or boring, it probably won't be successful. I find one of the best things to do with my children is play games. Card and dice games are often a great way to support maths and problem solving. One of my favourite games is Yahtzee, which is cheap to buy and easy to play. Another great game for children to support literacy is Bananagrams. This is similar to scrabble, but much simpler for children to play. Monopoly Deal is another great game that involves lots of thinking and strategy and it's also reasonably cheap to buy. Children are highly motivated to play games, and if you select the right ones, there is lots of learning involved.
2. **Online learning.** There are lots of fun apps and games which can support learning. These are often fun, and in many cases, provide activities appropriate to children's individual level. Many of our students have access to Reading Eggs, Sumdog and Maths Buddy. **Make sure you know the password and login details before the holidays.** Ask your child's teacher for further details. I suggest parents monitor the sort of learning activities that children are doing online, to ensure that they are worthwhile.
3. **Use the library.** Reading is one of the most important skills that children need at school. This is also an area that children often slip backwards in over the holidays. Children can take books out from our school library and there is the Upper Hutt Public Library. Using the Public Library is a fun and free activity so be sure to pop along in the holidays and get a few books out. If your child picks some books which are a bit hard, you may want to read these to your children. A few of my children's favourite books include any of the Roald Dahl series, as well as David Walliam books including Gansta Granny, Billionaire Boy and Ratburger. The Tom Gates Series of books are also very popular with children. Another idea is to check out the Whitcoulls top 50 Children's Books at <http://www.whitcoulls.co.nz/top-listings/kids-top-50>
4. **Get involved with some Fraser Quests.** These are a fun way for children to get involved with all sorts of different learning outside of school, and the holidays are an opportune time to complete a few. There are lots of different Quests so there is something for everyone. The basic rule in terms of the Quests is that the more students put into them, the more they get out of them. If you can, take a photo or bring in some of the children's creations as this is a fantastic way to inspire other children to do the Quests. Ask at the office if you don't have a copy of the correct year level Quest booklet for your child. **We have a Fraser Photo Competition Quest running during these school holidays.**
5. **Resources at school.** We have a range of support materials at school to support learning in the home. This includes separate booklets to support reading, writing and mathematics at home. Plus we have a range of games and activities that we can provide to be used in the home. If you would like any of these materials, please see Michelle Picard.

Use your imagination, learning opportunities are all around us. You or your child can tell us about what sort of home learning you've been up to in the holidays, and you might win a prize! Let us know after the holidays.

Many thanks, John Channer – Dad (and Principal) ☺