

# Tōtara Homework

Welcome to the Tōtara homework program. Our approach is designed to strengthen the skills students are developing in class. We believe that small, regular practice at home builds learner confidence and independence, while establishing the positive work habits necessary for a successful transition to College.

## Our Approach

To keep learning focused and manageable, teachers will provide paper-based activity sheets and a dedicated homework book. This "unplugged" format allows students to work without the distractions of the internet.

- **Weekly Cycle:** New sheets are issued every Friday.
- **Self-Correction:** Students receive answer sheets for the previous week's tasks every Friday to review their work.
- **Digital Options:** While the core homework is paper-based, students can still access school digital resources (Maths, Reading, and Inquiry) via Google Classroom if you choose to let them go online.

## Homework Breakdown

Our activity sheets focus on three core areas to ensure a well-rounded reinforcement of classroom learning.

### Numeracy Activities

The numeracy activities on the homework sheet will focus on the reinforcement of basic facts and then selective areas of number knowledge. There will also be an opportunity for students to analyse word problems and apply multi-step mathematical solutions.

### Structured Literacy Activities

The structured literacy activities on the homework sheet will reflect lessons that have been taught in class. These will initially focus on punctuation, grammar and the construction of compound and complex sentences.

### Reading Activities

Students should aim to build a reading habit of at least 30 minutes a day/evening. This could include reading independently, reading to someone at home, or being read to.

Building reading miles assists in a number of core areas; building vocabulary and understanding of new words; improving comprehension and reading fluency; strengthening imagination and curiosity; supporting success across other learning areas.

Students will be asked to keep a reading log of their efforts and also complete a mini review of some aspect of the material they have read over the course of the week.