Dear Parents

This week I shall continue to impress upon you why OUR homework is so important?

**Did you know that fluency affects reading comprehension?**

If your child reads too slowly because they are decoding (sounding out, chunking) too many unknown words they lose the gist of the story and hidden inferences. Good comprehension depends on a certain rate of fluency.

**How can we improve fluency?**

There are two main ways to increase fluency:

1. **Build a good bank of sight words**.

Students’ sight word levels should match their reading levels. e.g. as a general rule **good readers** should be on approximately the following levels at the **end** of each school year.

K- 100 sight words

Y1- 200 sight words

Y2- 600 sight words

Y3- 1000 sight words

Y4- 1500 sight words

Y5- Difficult vocabulary list

Y6- Challenging vocabulary list

1. **Reread the same passage in a book over a couple of days to build fluency and expression.**

In the 10 minutes of oral reading each night, it is a good idea to reread the book or passage to increase fluency on some nights over the week/fortnight.

**How else can I improve my child’s reading?**

Another really important step in improving your child’s reading is to follow the **Pause, Prompt and Praise** method when assisting your child with reading unknown words.

In a nutshell:

**Pause** 5 seconds or until the end of the sentence (give your child time to decode the unknown word)

**Prompt** Give a prompt that makes sense to you e.g. have another look at the middle of the word- do you know what sound ‘ie’ could make? (the only prompt not to give is a rhyming prompt)

**Praise** Give specific praise so the students remember the strategy for next time. e.g. I loved the way you went back to the end of the word, great thinking about the sound the vowel ‘a’ could make, you really thought about what could make sense.

For further detail regarding each of these steps I have included the full brochure on the school website for your reference.

*Re-read the sentence* with the correct word to maintain comprehension.

**ACTION: Please try to listen to your child/ren read aloud for 10 minutes and read 10 sight words 4 nights per week.** (Total~11 minutes per night)

Kind Regards

Susie Boyle, Principal