

Dear Class Parent Reps

At some point this week you will be asked to fill in a survey about HBL. I encourage all parents to do this and the email from Admin will come out soon.

Many of the emails being received at the moment involve the word stress and too much work. This is a Catch-22 situation because there are some children who do get through the work and some that don't. Sounds very much like what happens every day in school.

I need to remind everyone about a couple of things:

HBL is NOT supposed to be a punishment. It is to provide the normal stream of work for children who work through things at various paces and levels. If parents think that every child needs to complete every task and be 100% accurate within tight time frames then this perhaps is why there is stress.

When your children have had enough (and BELIEVE ME) they will let you know, then STOP. Don't argue or fight with your children. It's not worth it. Submit work that you can and leave the feedback to the teacher. Don't you be the judge and jury. That is something that the teachers can at least maintain control of, that is the feedback. We will assist the children there and provide all that for you. Don't judge their work. They need to submit work, finished or not. If they do 6 out of 10 questions...great I say...it gives me something to work with and allows me to give feedback to the children.

All over the world, parents are facing the same issues and problems. Balancing their jobs and school work with their children. We are not unique in this regard: It's everywhere. HBL does not allow for the "normal" socialising time that occurs within classrooms. In Australia the Education Ministry have actually specified 3 hours of working per day for their HBL approach, not 5 and a half.

And finally, let your children swim, run around, play board games, make cakes, help prepare dinners, wash the dog...there is so much more to do than sit in front of a screen all day. We want the children to be involved, we want them to be reading and following instructions, we want them to be listening and writing things down and we want them to be doing Math and occasionally some experiments and investigations. WE DON'T WANT THEM TO HATE LEARNING. If they struggle at times then take time out. Please.

We all miss your children and cannot wait for the day we have them back again. Please share and thank you for your support.

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