Level Three Curriculum:
In numeracy students have revised addition & subtraction mental strategies and written processes. In grade 3 students have been practicing their number bonds to 10 & 20 which they should be able to do automatically. In grade 4 students have been practicing the times tables, the more automatic these are, the easier students will find completing multiplication & division written processes. Both number bonds and time tables practice are weekly homework tasks as they are fundamentals and support the learning that takes place in the classroom. We are currently working on fractions. You can assist your child with fractions in the home at meal times discussing the terms halves, quarters and thirds.

We have now completed a unit on writing explanations, students have all written an independent piece explaining: “How are cans recycled?” We will now commence writing procedures.

We continue to work on reading strategies and developing comprehension skills in the classroom. It is important that students continue to read for up to 30min per night at home as well.

Reading Homework - Something to consider:
Students develop comprehension skills by thinking deeply about what they have read as a whole. Students with strong comprehension skills are able to analyse, form opinions and validate their opinions with proof from the text. These are complex skills and one way in which to develop these skills is through questioning to tease out and prompt a particular line of thinking. In general, effective questioning requires an adult’s intellect.
To ask effective questions and ensure your child provides adequate answers you need to be familiar with the content of what your child is reading.
You can assist your child to develop deep levels of comprehension by having active discussions with them about what they are reading.
Children are never too old to be read to, likewise they are not too old to practice reading out loud to an adult family member.

Tips for homework
Have a designated study space
1. Ensure your child has a comfortable seat, good lighting, adequate room and is free from noise and distraction like T.V. Ensure this space is organised with plenty of stationery supplies so that your child does not become distracted or preoccupied getting started or finding items.

Make a plan
2. Work with your child to create a timetable of days and times homework will be completed. Create a checklist or star chart that they can tick off when the task is complete.

Routine, routine, routine
3. Find the right time and stick to it. Once you have a schedule it will help answer those comments. “I'll do it later, after I've finished whatever," which can be a standard line among kids when asked if they've finished their homework.

Use a timer/exercise
4. A timer can help your child to focus on the task at hand and allow them to see an end point. They will be able to see that the task will not drag on and on into the future but rather, has a pre-determined time limit. Try starting with 15min. Take a 5-10min break – go outside get some fresh air and the blood pumping. This will help shake off the feeling of lethargy and get blood to the brain. Jump on a trampoline, a swing, kick a ball around, walk the dog. Come back and try for 10 more minutes.

Be involved
5. Be a motivator and a monitor. Make yourself available to answer questions and concerns. Help your child break tasks into chunks to work on one thing at a time. Sit down and ask your child to show you the work they completed and look over it. Decide together whether it is worthy of ticking off on the checklist or if they need to make a plan to make improvements.

Make a job well done the reward
6. Reward your child verbally when they have completed the task. Your interest can help to foster a positive attitude to homework.