



Kismet News

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Building the Foundations for Success and Happiness

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Dear Families,

Thank you for your assistance, cooperation and patience as we work to implement remote learning across our community. This is a momentous change to the manner in which we as teachers and you as parents support our students with their learning. As you would be aware the time taken to communicate, provide feedback and check in with students is greatly increased through remote delivery.

The key to providing the best remote learning possible is communication. We know some ideas will work well and some aspects of our delivery will require adjustments to ensure families, students and staff are not overwhelmed. We do appreciate and invite feedback from families that lets us know what is working or not working in your household. While there will be some practical limitations to what we can achieve, know that we are all totally committed to implementing the best program possible. Please either send feedback directly to your child's teacher or to me at mcconnellglenn.t@edumail.vic.gov.au. All feedback is being collated for consideration during our review of the first three days of remote learning. We will be reviewing our practices on a weekly basis.

STAFF AVAILABILITY

Teachers are available to students and families between 9:00am and 3:15pm. We will always aim to reply to questions, provide feedback and respond to requests for assistance as soon as practically possible. This will often require patience as teachers work through various components of their day. In addition to 'remote classroom' duties staff are involved in:

8:40-8:50am Whole Staff Briefing via Webex

12:30-1:30am Year Level Planning Meetings on 3 days per week

12:30-1:30am Staff Meeting and Professional Learning Sessions on 2 days per week

These sessions allow us to discuss and respond to feedback from families and each other. Professional learning will continue to improve our skills in delivering remote learning.

The remaining time is allocated to delivering remote lessons, meeting with classes and students via Webex, providing feedback related to submitted work, contacting families, providing technical or learning support, maintaining records of work, planning future lessons.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

Every family is different and every family has their own routines. It is up to parents how you manage your child's learning day. The important thing is to establish regular routines and expectations so that everyone knows what is going to happen each day. It is important that you set these kinds of expectations as soon as learning from home begins, rather than several days later if you notice a child is struggling without a routine.

Some suggestions, you can provide support for your child by:

- establishing routines and expectations - have a set wake up time, eat breakfast, go outside for a play and get dressed for the day.
- providing a space for your child to work in - refer to setting up a learning environment section
- providing a level of supervision appropriate to your child's stage of development - this will vary from year to year or child to child as it does for us in the classroom.
- monitoring communications from teachers - see communication section below.
- Encourage regular exercise breaks. Options could include exercise DVDs, apps, dancing, floor exercises, relaxation activities, walking around the garden or using home exercise equipment.
- Encourage healthy eating habits and drinking enough water

Keep normal bedtime routines for younger children



DAILY LEARNING GUIDE

Teachers will continue to plan a comprehensive program covering essential learning as outlined in the Victorian Curriculum. In addition to the 3 assigned lessons focussed on Reading, Writing and Mathematics we will be providing parents with resources and links to enable a balanced program including a variety of additional ideas for engaging children in informal learning.

The learning program delivered on-site will be the same as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning.

The following are the Department of Education's minimum daily remote learning expectations of schools.

For students in Prep to Grade 2, we will be providing learning programs that include the following:

Literacy activities that take a total of about 45-60 minutes

Numeracy activities of about 30-45 minutes

Additional learning areas, play-based learning and physical activity of about 30-45 minutes.

For students in Grades 3 to 6 will be provided with learning programs allocated as follows:

Literacy: 45-60 minutes

Numeracy: 30-45 minutes

Physical activities: 30 minutes

Additional curriculum areas: 90 minutes

To ensure you maximise learning opportunities in your home teachers ask you to:

- Aim to complete the 3 assigned learning blocks per day, focussing on Reading, Writing and Mathematics activities provided by your child's teacher.
- In between learning times, do physical activity, have a play time, do something creative, play a board game, cook or work in the garden - this list is endless.
- If you can not work with your child one on one for all tasks, check in with them often to help them manage and pace their work while offering guidance and support
- Monitor how much time your child is spending online and ensure they are being cyber-safe while only using technology in the sight of an adult.

Use regular daily opportunities for learning math concepts. Examples of this include: Bake a cake following a recipe / look at a calendar and discuss what date it is / mark off dates on a calendar / how many days until... / teach your child to tell the time on an analogue clock / keep a daily schedule for routine.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

To support families we will be using weekly newsletters to clarify questions frequently asked by parents. If you have a question or require clarification regarding remote learning please email me at mcconnell.glenn.t@edumail.vic.gov.au



INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING ONSITE

Students attending on site are asked to wear school uniform and bring the following along with them:

Lunch and snack food

A water bottle

A pair of headphones/ earphones to use with a school iPad

* Students attending onsite are asked NOT to bring their own device as we are unable to link them to the school's network.

Students can be dropped off at the front of the school from 8:40am onwards and unless making their own way home, can be collected at the front of the school at 3:15pm. Family members dropping students at school or collecting them are asked to minimise their time on the school site and not to linger.

How do we determine if a student is attending school?

DET has advised that schools may use a range of mechanisms to determine if students are attending in a remote learning context. This includes:

Learning contact: the school verifies that the student has engaged with learning tasks through participation in teaching schedule. This may include through the student's engagement with the school's learning platform (SeeSaw, Webex, Google Classroom), through teachers' direct interactions with the student and through student's submission of work.

Student, parent or carer contact: the school makes contact with the student, parent or carer to verify the student's participation that day.

Onsite attendance: student is recorded as present at a school site for onsite programs

Please note that attendance can be monitored through the submission of set learning tasks to their teacher. This provides families with some flexibility. For example: some families have let us know that they will be completing tasks late in the day when parents are more available. If you require flexibility around the completion of tasks please let your child's teacher know.

Where there are concerns regarding a student's participation in remote learning a staff member will contact the family to seek further information. Please inform your child's teacher if you are having issues with your child's participation in the learning program.

STAYING CALM

It is essential that everyone pays attention to their Health and Wellbeing. Please don't overwhelm your family with expectations that are not attainable. Focus on completion of the key learning in literacy in numeracy first, then adapt your day around the needs of the family. Some of the ideas below might come in useful in keeping household calm.

Being Mindful

When we're stressed about something (such as coronavirus), our thoughts tend to speed up. Taking 10 minutes or so to practise mindfulness can help produce a sense of calmness, and can make it easier to then make decisions. Here are some free options:

[Insight Timer](#) has over 25,000 free guided meditations, from 1 to 90+ minutes. Try searching by a topic that interests you (e.g. stress, learning to meditate, sleep).

[Smiling Mind](#) might be a good option if you don't want to be overwhelmed by choice. The meditations are organised by structured programs, such as Mindful Foundations, Sleep, Relationships, etc.

✦ Headspace

[If meditation isn't for you](#), try doing an everyday activity in a mindful way – in other words, put aside distractions and focus fully on one small task. For example, while you're having a cup of tea, pay attention to your senses (the smell of the tea, the warmth of the cup in your hand, the taste...).

Andrea Moiler from our school office will upload some relaxation ideas for you and your children to do at home, keep an eye out for these.





Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and Kismet Park Primary School is excited to be participating. A new application is being used this year that offers a range of exciting features including:

- access to a library catalogue (including book images and blurbs)
- a modern user-friendly interface
- rewarding students with badges as challenge milestones are achieved

the option for students to mark books as a favourite, give them a star rating or complete a book review

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 4 September 2020.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. Children from Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 15 books.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklists and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc

Please ask your child's teacher for their log in details.



KITCHEN FUN

The kitchen is a great place to combine math and reading skills. The more talk the better! You may like to try out the following simple recipe. Remember to let the kids to the work – you can do the cleaning up later!

PLAYDOUGH RECIPE

Prep Time: 5 mins Cook Time: 5 mins

Ingredients

- 1 cup *flour*
- 2 teaspoons of *cream of tartar*
- 1/2 cup *salt*
- 1 tablespoon of *cooking oil, olive oil or vegetable oil*
- 1 cup of *water*

Food colouring Instructions

1. In a bowl, combine all of your dry ingredients (flour, salt, cream of tartar) and mix well.
2. In a medium pot, mix the food colouring with your water and stir, then add the oil. Mix together well.
3. Add the dry ingredients to your pot and mix well.
4. Cook over low to medium heat until the dough starts to form and becomes dry.

Once it starts to form a ball together and looks fully cooked, take off the heat. Let the dough cool first before touching.

Once cool, knead the dough for 5 minutes to make the dough soft.



DO YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR HOME LEARNING IN THE NEWSLETTER?

If you have a lovely photo or story to share from your home learning experience we would love to hear from you. Lets lift each other up, we would love happy, funny stories that you are keen to share with our Kismet Community. Email Andrea and keep an eye out for our next newsletter, moiler.andrea.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

