



# Kismet News

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*Building the Foundations for Success and Happiness*

16 July 2020

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|-----------------------|---|
| Monday 20 July        | Remote Learning Commences   |
| Wednesday 22nd July   | Parent Teacher Interviews via Webex   |
| Thursday 23rd July    | Parent Teacher Interviews via Webex   |
| Friday 31st July      | Curriculum Day—students do not attend school on this day and no remote learning |
| Wednesday 5th August  | Wellbeing Wednesday   |
| Thursday 6th August   | Newsletter Day  |
| Wednesday 19th August | Wellbeing Wednesday   |

Dear Families,

Like you, we are all disappointed that term 3 has not seen us return to normal schooling. Challenging times like this require us to all work together with a positive mindset that will help us do the best we can over the next five weeks.

As you would be aware there are many things to be considered over the next few weeks. We are mindful that families will be concerned about future activities such as the Year 3/4 Camp and Year 6 Graduation as we can no longer assume that large gatherings will be permissible later in the year. We will keep you informed reading updated DET guidelines as they are received. Teachers will be discussing alternative graduation possibilities with year 6 students over the coming weeks—just in case.

## SEMESTER 2 NEWSLETTERS GOING FORTNIGHTLY

Given the many new ways we communicate with families it seems that weekly newsletters are no longer the most effective way to distribute information. Therefore we will be moving to fortnightly newsletters next semester. Newsletters will commence in week 1 of each term, followed by weeks 3,5,7,9 and 11 as determined by the duration of each term. Important news updates, event calendars, policies and other information will continue to be available via Compass.

## SHARE YOUR REMOTE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

If you have a photo or story to share from your home learning experience we would love to hear from you. Let's 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, [andrea.moiler@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:andrea.moiler@education.vic.gov.au). We will also be gathering photos for our 2020 Year Book which will be produced later this year.

## REMOTE LEARNING—Take Two!

This week we started by reflecting on remote learning during term 2—what worked well and things we would like to do better. During this process we reflected on results from the Home Learning Survey completed by families last term. Results indicated that:

- 80% of families were satisfied with the home learning arrangements we provided
- 75% thought the amount of work we provided was about right
- 84% were satisfied with communication about how to prepare and transition to learning from home
- 88% understood what was expected of the child each day
- 78% indicated a better understanding of what their child is learning
- 28% of families understood how their child would be assessed
- 64% indicated that teachers communicate often enough about their child's progress



- 67% indicated the school responded to feedback from parents

Following our reflections we will be:

- Simplifying documentation to go out to families each week
- Providing more consistency of planners and routines
- Providing information about assessment practices. Essential Tasks for Assessment will be clearly identified for teacher feedback and to track learning progress.
- Providing weekly activities in the Performing Arts, Japanese and Physical Education. These can be completed at any time throughout the week.
- Scheduling Wellbeing Wednesdays fortnightly to support the wellbeing of students and their families

We look forward to working with you to deliver another successful remote learning program that supports our students and families to achieve the best they can while caring for their wellbeing during these challenging times.



### PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Our Term 3 parent teacher interviews for all classes will be held between 3:30 and 6:00pm on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd July. Due to COVID restrictions interviews will be held via Webex (or phone if you are unable to access Webex). These interviews will enable you to discuss your child's report, aspects of the remote learning experience, transition back to school and stage of learning relevant to your child. Bookings can be made through the COMPASS portal. Booking close on Monday 20 July.

### CURRICULUM DAY FRIDAY 31 JULY

Planning for our next curriculum day on Friday 31 July. On this day teachers will be involved in professional learning activities that support school improvement initiatives to improve learning outcomes for our students in English and Mathematics. The day's work will focus on the implementation of our Instructional Model that sets out how we structure our teaching, the High Impact Teaching Strategies that reliably increase student learning wherever they are applied and Formative Assessment that informs teachers about what they need to teach next.

Students do not attend school on this day. Extend will be providing onsite childcare for families.

### PREP 2021 SCHOOL TOURS CANCELLED

Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions schools are unable to hold any tours of the school until further notice. We are working through alternative arrangements which will be communicated soon. 2021 enrolment packs are available. Please contact the office on 97444566 or email [kismet.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:kismet.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au) to request a copy.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through the COVID environment.

### REMOTE LEARNING SUMMARY

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 [glenn.mcconnell@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:glenn.mcconnell@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## 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 and the taste).

