

A MESSAGE TO PARENTS AT HOME

Please be kind to yourself. What we are doing is not home schooling. Home schooling involves a parent choosing to educate their children at home after considerable thought and preparation, and generally does not include contact with a school. This is new territory. We are developing an online learning approach which will be a new experience for students, parents and staff. We will develop and refine this model together in the coming weeks. There will be many successes as well as some mistakes along the way, but we will all learn and grow from them together.

Parents have always been the primary educators of children and there is great value in everyday activities such as cooking, reading together, playing outside or watching a television documentary. These activities all have educational value and I encourage you to participate in these experiences and enjoy this time together.

The home environment is not the school environment. Please do not feel pressure to try to recreate school at home. Over time, and with the support of the school staff, you will create a learning environment that works for your family and this does not mean commencing school at 8.40am and finishing at 3pm. We understand that you may be working from home, have young children in the house or any number of other matters that you will need to consider when developing your approach to supporting your children's education.

What works for you and your children will develop over time and may well be unique to each family's circumstances. It is absolutely alright to give yourself and children time to work through these matters. This is also true for our staff who are developing new ways of teaching. We need time to explore and evaluate options, test new ideas and modify teaching tools.

With that in mind, please be aware that;

- If the amount of work sent home via Connect or the website is too much for your family's circumstances, do less.
- The school has sent home lots of links to websites. You do not have to go to them all or use every one.
- Please do not worry how much work the children in other families have completed or not completed, remember each families' circumstances are unique.
- If the work your children are doing includes skills and concepts previously taught, please do not worry. Revision and repetition are powerful tools for learning.
- If you are worried that your children are not getting through all the work because the kids are playing Lego, playing outside or you need to do the washing or cleaning, please don't. All of these activities have value and the children should participate in them.

You may find yourself with two or three children completing work at different levels and it will be challenging to get it all done and support each child. This can be managed by reducing the amount of work you ask each child to undertake.

There will be opportunities to use the learning materials we provide you and these will support your child's learning, but so will many other activities that you can do at home.

Please be kind to yourself as parents as we transition into our new model of learning.

Sincerely

Geoffrey Elliott
Principal