

Up-date: Learning from Home

Dear Parents/Carers,

Tonight (29.3.20) the Australian Prime Minister has urged all parents and caregivers to keep their children at home with strong suggestion that **only** those students that have **no** carer/parent at home to come to school. In the instance of supporting social distancing measures, schools are also moving to allowing staff provisions to work from home. This is in line with aiming to reduce the number of staff interacting with one another and minimise the number of people onsite each day, ensuring social distancing guidelines are followed. Therefore, the number of students that we have onsite each day needs to be kept minimal and available for students that have **no** parent/carer at home, due to being an essential worker. Our teachers will be working to a roster system so they too can support their own families during this time and adhere to strict social distancing measures being implemented, to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In public spaces the Prime Minister has also stated that no more than 2 people will be together outside of a household group. He has urged all families to stay at home unless shopping for essentials, seeking medical treatment or exercising for short periods of time. I would like to thank all families who have been supporting our school by engaging in set 'Learning at Home tasks' and also those that have kept their children at home during this time.

'Learning from Home' packs have been sent home to support you and your child at home. I am sure you understand that it is an EXTREMELY complex task to provide learning for all students (some with access to technology, some with not) by our teachers. We ask for your patience as we continue to refine our systems and this 'new' way of doing things.

I know there are some people feeling stressed, overwhelmed and worried about the work being sent home for their children. We understand many of you are continuing to work from home as well. It is up to families to form schedules and routines that **suit your family**. I hope this message can help clear up that expectation and relieve the pressure to 'teach' your child. I particularly understand that it can be a difficult balance when a parent/carer is trying to work from home and engage several children in home learning tasks.

Please be assured, all WWPS staff are here to help and offer support. This now becomes our job as educators to work in consultation with families to design learning that fits with your child and their needs. If the set classwork that is being offered is not suitable to your home situation, please contact us as soon as you can so the class teacher can offer other suggestions and/or tasks to help your child continue to learn from home in this uncertain time. If you have any questions/problems with the work, message us via class dojo (infants' classes only), email (all parents provided with staff e-mail addresses last week) or call us at school. Even if the teacher is working off site, a message will be passed on and that teacher will make contact to you throughout the school day.

The following things I need you to do, to best support your child's learning.

1. Ensure you have the Skoolbag app and have liked our Facebook page. This is how we will be communicating to our community. We will also be posting all notes on our website under notes home.
2. Set up your learning environment space in your home. Try for an area with a table or bench, free from distractions.



Wangi Wangi
PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dobell Drive
Wangi Wangi NSW 2267
PHONE 4975 1312 **FAX** 4975 4238

EMAIL wangiwangi-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
WEBSITE www.wangiwangi-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
FACEBOOK wangiwangipublicschool

3. Keep your normal routine. Students in the morning eat breakfast, clean their teeth and get dressed. Normal bedtimes at night (this depends on their wake-up time).
4. Try to focus on your child for the session. Remember, '**Learning from Home**' looks different to school. It will be 30 minutes to an hour at a time of sit down desk work, once or twice a day. It is expected that you can support your child with their learning and provide them immediate feedback by marking their work with them.
5. Plan your day for each child and keep in touch with messages from the school.
6. Take breaks! Have your children take breaks away from their screen. Play lego, walk/play outside, cook with you, games, gardening. All this is very valuable learning!
7. If the work you have is too hard, please let us know and we will provide alternate work. All children learn at different paces and there are many kids working on differentiated levels of work. It's OK.

What else can you do each day?

- Read every day (independent, to them or via audiobook etc). This is so important for literacy development
- Some writing - If they'll keep a diary, great. If not, would they draw a comic?
- Practical hands on maths. Be that via cooking, cleaning, outside or some physical or digital maths games.
- Fine motor work - lego, cutting, playdough, tidying up small toys.
- Physical exercise everyday
- If old enough, get them to independently work on a project on a selected topic and present to you or family.
- If younger, lots of imaginative free play, the more independent the better.
- Play a board game either as a family or with siblings.

Remember this is no ordinary situation we are all living and working in nor a situation that anyone has been through before in recent times. Please keep loving your kids and supporting them through a difficult time. Creating a calm, safe atmosphere is the most important thing for parents to do for their children right now.

Kind Regards,

Tim Lewis

Principal Wangi Wangi Public School