

14 April 2020

Welcome to Term 2

Tomorrow marks the first day of the term, but not as we know it. Everyone has been impacted by Covid 19, and there is only a glimmer of light towards returning to normal in the near future.

As a school we have prepared a Wigram Primary Home Learning Website. The link is at the bottom of this letter. The purpose of this website is to provide at least 2 weeks of learning in a wide range of curriculum areas. Take some time to explore all that is on offer, and work out the areas that have a greater interest to your child, some of the tasks may fit better to their age and stage of learning than others.

The expectation is that children should be engaged in some forms of learning every day. If your child is 5 years old this will look quite different to a child of 10.

No matter what there are the following things that can be part of everyday.

Reading - books that they have at home, online books, recipes and game instructions

Writing - from practicing their alphabet writing and letter practice, their name, through to writing a daily diary about what they have been doing, and what their family is up to. Writing letters to email, or post.

Mathematics - from writing numbers to 10, 20, 100, forwards and backwards, to practicing addition and subtraction equations, through to practicing their times tables.

These activities can be repeated everyday.

We are not promoting that your child is in front of a screen all day, you need to stick to some family rules around screen time use. There are a couple of possible timetables below that may, or may not fit with how you view the Home Learning option for your child.

We understand that not everyone is able to provide home support for the work children are doing as some parents are working too. This is why there is variety. Learning Teams will also be sending out a Team Newsletter in the next day or so.

If you responded to my Google Form (by 7 April) and requested some hard copy work for your child, it has been passed on to the Ministry of Education for them to organise and distribute. Those people who requested a device, this has been passed on too. I have no idea on the timeline for these items. If you did not return the form by 8 April, you missed the Ministry of Education cut off and your request has not been met at this stage.

Possible timetables for your Home Learning Day.

### **Daily Schedule**

Before 9:00am	Wake up	Eat breakfast, make your bed, get dressed, put any dirty clothes in the laundry
9:00-10:00	Morning walk	Family walk with the dog, bike ride, Yoga if it's raining
10:00-11:00	Learning at home	School-led learning or Sudoku, books, flash cards, study guide, journal etc. School TV
11:00-12:00	Creative time	Lego, magnatiles, drawing, crafting, play music, cook or bake etc.
12:00 pm	Lunch :)	

12:30	Helping at home	# wipe all kitchen tables and chairs # wipe all door handles, light switches and desk tops # wipe bathrooms - sinks and toilets
1:00-2:30	Quiet time	Reading, puzzles, nap, radio NZ stories, school TV
2:30-4:00	Learning at home	School-led learning or iPad games, Prodigy, Educational show
4:00-5:00	Afternoon fresh air	Bikes, walk the dog, play outside
5:00-6:00	Dinner :)	
6:00-8:00	Free TV time	Kids shower time
8:00	Bedtime	All kids
9:00pm	Bedtime	All kids who follow the daily schedule & don't fight

Or -

**MAKER HOUR: DO SOMETHING CREATIVE (60 MIN)**  
Ideas include maker crates, divergent thinking challenges, Scratch video game creation, circuitry, blogging, video creation, podcasting, drawing, painting, creating a comic book, making puppets, writing using video prompts

**GENIUS HOUR: TAP INTO YOUR CURIOSITY (60 MIN)**  
Ideas include learning a new skill, learning a new language, learning an instrument, doing a Wonder Day project. Feel free to capture this on a blog, podcast, or video.

**INDIE READING TIME (30 MIN)**  
We have four bookshelves packed with books plus a giant stash of magazines. Read something off-device. Never ever feel bad about ditching a book and trying a new one. Life is too short for lousy reading.

**FITNESS HOUR: GETTING MOVING (60 MIN)**  
Choose from the options of weight-lifting, running, core work (squats, burpees, lunges), and practicing baseball or ballet (like bar work, which I just learned has nothing to do with alcohol). Take the dogs for a walk.

**SERVICE (30 MIN)**  
Do something for others. We have one chore per day but then see if you can find something to do. Find a way to serve others around you.

**JOHN SPENCER**

From 15 April the Ministry of Education is starting dedicated Television channels for learning. These are designed to supplement the school provided options, print materials and parent options. TVNZ2+1 channel and Sky 502.

Hardcopy of learning materials from Ministry of Education

When children are in a classroom, the work they are given is determined by a teacher who knows your child. Not all children learn at the same rate, or have the same learning needs. The Ministry have taken a stab in the dark, and within these packs you will find that some aspects will not be levelled to your child's actual learning level. Some things may be too simple, some far too hard. Please do not let your child get frustrated by this.

We know and understand that you are Mum and Dad (aunt, uncle, grandparent, friend), not a teacher. Do not stress over the learning. Look for things that are fun, and enjoy the learning time together. Learning through play is huge and your time playing/sharing with your child will be most valuable.

Last Thursday night we received information around possible options for schools reopening after the Lockdown criteria 4. At the earliest this would be Wednesday 29 April, but not necessarily for all students. There are still some social distancing issues for schools. We will all be waiting for the Prime Ministers report on 20 April to get an idea on when things will change and how schools might look.

### **Information and resources to support wellbeing and support learning at home**

- The Ministry of Education has developed a resource for parents, caregivers, whānau and family - <http://education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/pastoral-care-and-wellbeing/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-coronavirus/>.
- The Ministry of Health's website includes [Top ways to look after your mental wellbeing](#) during the Covid-19 lockdown.
- I AM HOPE is the youth and community focused support group run by The Key to Life Charitable Trust, started by Mike King - <https://www.iamhope.org.nz/>
- Nathan Wallis has some helpful videos on his Facebook page for parents and whānau - <https://www.facebook.com/nathanwallisxfactorededucation/> -
- Tips on looking after mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19 from the Mental Health foundation <https://www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/covid-19/>
- A website by the Health Promotion Agency to help New Zealanders recognise and understand depression and anxiety - <https://depression.org.nz/covid-19/>
- Although overseas-based this is a good list and highlights some things particularly important for children. Remember the rules of New Zealand's level 4 lockdown still apply - [25 Mental Health Wellness Tips during Quarantine from Eileen M Feliciano, Psy.D.](#)

On a final note (for today)

Enjoy your children, play with them, draw with them, cut and glue, count, sing - have fun. Spending quality time with your children is valuable. I will send you another update (not a novel) before Anzac weekend.

Take care, be kind and remember, you are the one in charge.

Our Home Learning Website link here - <https://bit.ly/WPShomelearning>

Kind regards

*Heather*

Heather Walkinshaw  
Principal