



Heights Happenings

Winston Heights Newsletter

TERM 1

WEEK 11

Dear Parents,

COVID-19 and Learning at Home

Well! What a roller coaster ride we have all been on since our last newsletter two weeks ago. The fortnight has felt like a whole year has flown by with the amount of change we are all experiencing.

This very rapid change is happening for all students, staff and you as parents/carers in the form of Learning at Home. For students they are missing the social interactions that takes place at school between friends and the explicit teaching from our wonderful teachers. The staff are on a steep learning curve as they navigate their way through Google Classroom and explore various technologies to assist in delivering learning to your children in an online format. Parents and carers you too are facing change as you support your children in their learning journey. For some of you it has been frustrating and time consuming. We understand your challenges and want you to know we are here to support you as much as we can. Please reach out by phone or email if you are experiencing some difficulties or challenges. We have put together a short parent survey about Learning at Home and your experience so far with coping with this new way of learning. It would really assist our staff if you could complete this so we are able to see how else we can assist families during this time. <https://forms.gle/tUjuTypBsGJ8gfNY6>

Learning at home is not the same as a traditional school day. We can't as teachers, and you as parents, expect our students, your children, to work offline and/or online for six hours a day (9am – 3pm). They need to get outside, they need to run around and they need to not be in front of screens for the entire day. The online learning classroom cannot replace direct instructional time with a child's classroom teacher.

Our teachers are planning activities that students are able to complete with relative independence. However, the reality to this is that it is hard for everyone in the home. Students trying to complete tasks may have siblings. They maybe older and demand more time from parents to assist with activities or monopolise the technology. Siblings maybe younger and create disruptions so that a child cannot complete work to the best of their ability. Students may not have the support from parents who are also trying to work from home. Teachers working from home may have disruptions from their own families, including young children. Parents working from home need to use the technology too and require a quiet space. These are all variables that impact everyone. We all need to remember this.

It is anticipated that Learning at Home will carry on into Term 2. We will continue to keep you updated when we are given information from the Department of Education. The school is currently organising packs of work for all students this week, ready for the start of Term 2. As is the case this term, if a student attends school then they are to bring all their booklets and learning journal with them each day. We have up to 30 children attending school each day with *minimal supervision*. The children attending are completing the exact same work as those children learning at home. They are practising social distancing within the classroom and outside in the playground during breaks. The majority of these students attending have parents working in essential services.

All children who are Learning at Home are marked as Flexible attendance. If parents have sent in an absent note through the App or by email they need to state the dates and reason for the absence. The school may know the reason during this pandemic, however, it needs to be stated.

Google Classrooms

Children are required to log on to their Google Classroom each day. We have a number of Google Classrooms operating for our school. Each class has their own and then we have one for Library, one for Wellbeing and stage based ones for The Studio. I will list their Google Classroom codes below. Please remember that these codes are for our students at our school

only. They are not to be shared with students at neighbouring schools. The codes for The Studio have been posted on the class streams in individual Google Classrooms.

When a child logs onto Google Classroom each day and a teacher sees they have attempted to participate in the activities then they are recorded as Flexible attendance, showing they are attempting their learning from home. Teachers may call parents to check-in on their students to see how they are going at various times during the week. Children can ask their class teacher questions on the Google Classroom at any time and the teacher will reply during school hours. Other teachers will also be posting on the Google Classroom. If a child does not participate in any activities at all and their absence is unexplained then they will be marked absent for that day. The class teacher will be in contact to check-in and see if there are any issues. Our staff are often calling from home so their number will display No Caller ID.

Each Thursday I will put up an Assembly post on individual Google Classrooms. During this post I will share some news with the students, wish those students who have celebrated birthdays in the past week and also set a small challenge. The students can reply if they wish and sometimes will be able to complete a form/survey that will get sent directly to me to view. Other teachers sending out messages that are not their direct classroom teachers may be – Mr Nicolussi, Mrs Hinton, Mrs Sim, Ms Adams, Mrs Wright, Mrs Moulos and Mrs Bowman.

Teachers have the right to block students from the Google Classroom or mute their comments if they are not being respectful, responsible and are not being safe in their online learning environment. Winston Heights students should always remember the school values of being a respectful, responsible and safe learner. I would really appreciate it if parents could discuss the area of respectful comments with their children. Teachers are also able to delete inappropriate comments and have had to do this from time to time.

Codes for: Library Google Classroom – 57khn bq

Wellbeing Google Classroom – m5sbxex

Borrowing Books from our Library this week

Mrs Hinton, with the help of Mrs Sim, have been hard at work selecting books for children to take home. The limit of books to borrow from our library has been increased to 10. Last week books were selected, scanned and bagged ready to go to families who booked in a borrowing time for their children during this last week of term. Unfortunately we are unable to allow children to browse and select books themselves but I am sure you will be happy with what Mrs Hinton and Mrs Sim have carefully chosen for your child/ren. Bookings have now closed for today (Monday) but there are still some timeslots available for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please go to: www.schoolinterviews.com.au and then use the code **df98d**.



Bookings will close for all other days at 3pm today (Monday 6/4/20).



If students have library books to be returned during the borrowing appointments they can. Please place these returns in the specially marked "RETURN" boxes on arrival at the Buckleys Rd gate. These books will go back into the library circulation after they have sat for 2 weeks and are then thoroughly cleaned.

Please follow social distancing requirements when coming into the school grounds to collect your bag of books. Please enter through the Buckleys Rd pedestrian gate (near the staff car park) and your books will be available from the tables just inside the gate or from the front office.

Crazy Hair Day

I wanted to give you an update on Ruby's and Leroy's fundraising for the Worlds Greatest Shave. Leroy raised \$2216 for the leukaemia foundation. What an amazing effort! Ruby well and truly surpassed her goal and raised a total of \$10, 181. Her hair that was shaved, was sent to Sustainable Salons and will be used to make wigs. Congratulations Ruby on this massive achievement!

Jersey Day

Thank you to all who posted or sent in a photo of their children dressed in their favourite team jersey on Friday. We all had fun. I have made a collage on my wall in my office of all the children (and some parents) and teachers wearing their jersey to brighten up our day. It will continue to grow with photos over the coming weeks.



Happy Easter

Term 1 concludes this Thursday 9th April. The teachers will close off comments on Google Classroom over the Easter break. Term 2 will start back on Monday 27th April for staff to participate in Professional Learning. Students will continue to Learn at Home for next term. Teachers will open up Google Classrooms from Tuesday 28th April. There will be minimal supervision at school for children of parents who are essential workers.

On behalf of the Winston Heights Staff I wish you a very Happy Easter. Please practise social distancing, stay home, stay safe and stay healthy.

Kind regards,

Margaret Creagh

Principal

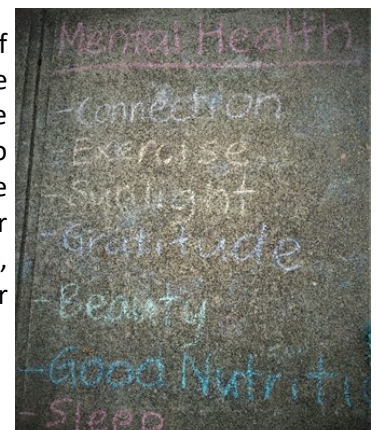


Chaplain Chat 2020 Week 11

Welcome to Week 11. I don't need to tell you the world has changed. How we do everything has changed and for a lot of us, change is difficult. I want to encourage you and your children to make wise decisions about how you manage this change. You don't need a long letter from me, so I will show you a picture I found on the footpath the other day. These simple instructions written by local kids, will help you and your family to cope with the change, the inconveniences, the stress and the uncertainty of living in a world touched by COVID-19. Sit down with your kids and each choose a word, and talk about how you can use that word to improve your day today.

I hope your children have visited the Wellbeing Google Classroom. There are lots of resources there, and more each day, to help us all to care for ourselves and the people who we love. If you have any suggestions for this Classroom, please use the suggestions form. As chaplain, I am still working (although mostly from home) to care for everyone in the school environment, through phone calls, emails and the Wellbeing Space. As well as self-care and mindfulness strategies (and lots of other things) for the students, there are some sections for you, the parents, for family fun, for parenting ideas and for your mental health too. There's also a form there for anyone who is really struggling and needs some help, or just some connection.

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