

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Week 5! As your child moves through primary school, they will speak with greater fluency and with a greater knowledge of the world. Below are some ideas you can easily implement to help your child with speaking and listening skills. Good control of vocabulary and the ability to listen are essential skills for all experienced learners.

HELPING YOUR CHILD TO SPEAK AND LISTEN

Talking with your child

Regularly talking and interacting with your child extends their language and listening skills, and helps grow their confidence with language. Include your child when discussing everyday activities such as grocery shopping, gardening, cooking dinner, collecting mail from the mailbox, doing housework, and travelling in the car or bus.

Outings can also provide a world of new vocabulary. Discussion during outings can enrich your child's understanding of the world. Outings might include going to the park, the zoo, a shopping centre, museums, libraries and art galleries. Other fun activities can include:

- Share rhymes, poems and songs. Encourage your child to join in.
- Share and talk about family histories and family photos.
- Look at picture books or art books. Ask your child to describe what is happening in the pictures and make up stories together.
- Collect cardboard and other household items for your child to build with. Ask your child to describe what they are building.
- Look at 'junk mail' and talk about the things for sale.
- Listen to simple radio programs or podcasts together and discuss the content.
- Play vocabulary games with your child such as, "what's the opposite of?" (for example, "what's the opposite of big?") and "what's another word for....?" (for example, "what's another word for angry?")

Oral storytelling is a great way to extend your child's speaking and listening skills, and to expand their memory and imagination. Either you can tell the story, or you can encourage your child to tell the story. Storytelling might be about:

- your child's favourite toy
- another family member
- a pet
- a favourite fictional character from a book or television program
- a famous person
- the work of people from different professions, such as astronauts, firefighters, nurses and teachers
- an imaginary world with imaginary characters
- an imaginary animal that can speak.

Warmest Regards,

Kathy Cvitkovic

Assistant Principal

"The word listen contains the same letters as the word silent." Alfred Brendel

VICE CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Hello parents and students,

Reading is a very important part of our daily school life. At Melton West Primary School we read every day which helps us build our stamina, increase our vocabulary and comprehend using a variety of strategies. We read for enjoyment and we read to learn. We should also be reading every night for at least 20 minutes.

This week we interviewed some Year 1 students and asked them what they liked about reading and the types of books they read.

Aries (1V) – I like reading new words and sounding out new words. My favourite books to read are books about Monster Trucks.

Aluel (1V) – I love learning new words. My favourite books to read are fantasy and adventure. I also like to look at the illustrations.

Hayden and Paige (1W) – We like reading chapter books. These books are fun and interesting.

Jethro (1S) – I like to read books about facts. My favourite books to read are books about dolphins.

Apiel (1S) – I like reading narratives because they tell a story.

Arvin (1H) – I like reading non-fiction books, mostly books about science.

Indiana (1H) – My favourite type of books to read are non-fiction books. I look at challenging words with confidence.

It is also 3/4 Swimming this week and from what we have heard, the students are engaged and having a lot of fun learning about water safety.

Keep on reading and have a wonderful week!

Akur and Daniel – Vice Captains



say cheese!

School Photo Day is fast approaching.
Have your child's school memories captured forever
on Thursday 21st March 2019

Your photo order envelopes will arrive shortly. Please start planning your purchases and payment options.

Remember these helpful points:

- Read all relevant instructions for your preferred payment method.
All payments are due on photo day.
- You may pay **online** using your credit card. Each child will have an individual 'shootkey' listed on their envelope. This will help identify your child's order.
- You may pay by cash using the individual envelope provided.
Please enclose correct money as no change will be given.
- *Sibling photo envelopes are available at the school office upon request. **THESE PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN DURING SCHOOL, ON PHOTO DAY, USUALLY AT RECESS***
 - Please instruct siblings to attend the photo studio during this time. Photographers are unable to search for students who do not attend.
- Do not seal envelopes inside each other. You may include payment for all children in one envelope, however, please indicate on this envelope the names of all the children you are paying for.
- All students should wear their **correct school uniform.**

For any enquiries, please feel free to contact

MSP Photography

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Getting it right in English!

Reading and Technology- engaging our readers

We know many of our students are technological experts and own devices at home. One way we engage students during reading lessons is by providing opportunities to read and explore a range of online texts. This may involve researching information to answers questions or simply read for enjoyment.

Below is a list of websites and iPad apps used at school. These are free to visit or sign up to and can also be accessed from home.

Some of these websites and apps are more suited to students at specific reading developmental levels, while others provide engaging reading material for all.

Students may already have accounts to some of these sites. Please ask their teacher for their log in details.



www.heraldsun.com.au/kids-news



www.teachyourmonstertoread.com

*Also available as an iPad app



www.getepic.com



www.literacyplanet.com



Eggy Alphabet

*iPad app



www.oxfordowl.co.uk

*Also available as an iPad app



www.starfall.com

*Also available as an iPad app



www.mightybook.com



<http://mythicijourneys.org>



www.storylineonline.net



www.storynory.com



www.sillybooks.net



<http://pbskids.org/games/reading/>



<https://labyrinth.thinkport.org>

Sarah Marshall
Leading Teacher- Literacy

Explore maths every day: The power of maths for young children

Monday

Make collections:

Collect objects from the outdoors, like stones, leaves or twigs

Sort them into groups and count how many items are in each group

How many items are there in your favourite collection?



Tuesday

Try measuring:

Explore ways of measuring using sticks, foot prints or hand lengths

Measure the height of people in your family

Who is the tallest? Who is the shortest?



Wednesday

Work out ways to measure ingredients for a recipe:

Explore ways of measuring using a cup, a jug, a teaspoon and a tablespoon

If you have kitchen scales weigh different foods such as a packet of flour, a bag of rice or some vegetables

Put the things you have weighed in order from lightest to heaviest.



Thursday

Think of ways of moving with maths outdoors:

Find ways to balance your weight with a friend on the see-saw

How many steps does it take to get from the park bench to the slide?

What other maths games can you play in the playground?



Friday

Find patterns:

Try following a pattern someone else has started and continue the pattern on your own

Make a pattern using pebbles, pegs or pieces of coloured paper

What patterns can you see around you?



Saturday

Stack building blocks:

Build a tower as high as you can

Can you build a tower that is taller than you are?

What other structures can you make with building blocks?



Sunday

Seek out shapes:

Start and finish a jigsaw puzzle

Find four or more different shapes in your house

Draw some of the shapes you can see inside your house.



It is the mission of Melton West PS to work collaboratively to ensure high levels of learning for all.



There are better questions than ‘How much screen time?’

by Martine Oglethorpe

‘How much time should my child be allowed in front of a screen?’ ‘What about my five-year-old?’ ‘How long should I let my 13-year-old play Fortnite?’ As a digital wellness and online safety expert, these are some of the questions I am most frequently asked.

They are certainly all relevant questions as parents fumble about trying to make rules and boundaries around their child’s screen time habits. Obviously we all want to prevent the screen time obsessions we hear about in the media. We want to maintain a sense of control over our child’s screen time habits.

As the digital world is far more complex and nuanced, our approach and questions need to mirror those complexities. We can certainly apply some time limits, and prescribe times when devices are not to be used. But it’s wise to ask more pertinent questions to help us make more informed choices about the rules and boundaries we set up for our kids.

In particular, there are three important questions we should ask. These are:

1. ‘What is my child doing with his or her screen?’

There’s no point worrying about how long your child is on a screen if you have no idea what they are doing when they’re on it. Handing a child a device without guidance can lead to a vast range of different experiences. One child might spend the time researching the dietary habits of a green tree frog, or learning how to make the best paper plane to fly with a younger sibling. Another might watch a funny cat video, or even watch hard-core pornography. These are vastly different ways to spend their time online.

2. ‘What is the effect of the screens on my child?’

Is your child enjoying socialising online because it allows them deeper connections with their friends, provides them with support and gives them a sense of belonging? Alternatively, is he or she feeling excluded or being cyberbullied? A child’s online experiences can help or hinder wellbeing. If online activities lead to tantrums when transitioning to offline tasks, or even aggression then it may be a sign that online use is having a negative impact.

3. ‘What is my child missing out on?’

Children and teens benefit from involvement in a wide range activities so they can maintain optimum physical, social and emotional development. Spending time outdoors, enjoying active sports, connecting face-to-face with

friends, sharing family meals, keeping up with homework and assisting with household chores are the types of activities that most experts agree are beneficial for children and young people. If the amount of time a child spends on digital devices excludes him or her from these types of activities then it can be considered excessive. If this is the case, then it's reasonable to expect that, with your assistance, your child begins to place some limits on their screen use.

Digital devices present new challenges for parents to manage. As a result parents need to shift the focus away from simply managing a child's time to helping him or her successfully integrate screen use into their daily life in ways that support learning, development and wellbeing.



Martine Oglethorpe

Martine Oglethorpe is an accredited speaker with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner and has presented to numerous parent groups, schools and teachers. She is a speaker, counsellor and educator with a passion for building resilient kids in a digital world. Contact details: info@martineoglethorpe.com.au, themodernparent.net, facebook.com/themodernparent

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INSTORE & ONLINE THURSDAY 14TH MARCH.

* Excludes gift cards, all suit packages & Schoolwear layby's. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Floor stock only.

Styles and colours may vary from store to store.

No rain checks. Please choose carefully, exchanges and refunds only with docket. Includes existing 5% discount.

Offer ends midnight (AEDT) 14/03/19. Must use Zero or Rewards card to receive discount.