

Remote/Flexible Learning – Supporting Your Child at Home.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A very warm welcome to Week 4 of Remote/Flexible learning. Please let me begin by thanking each and every one of you for the ways in which you have continued to support your children and our staff through these very different times. Your show of resilience, positivity and empathy is greatly appreciated by all of us at Melton West Primary School.

Now that you have established a comfortable work space for your child and are supporting your child to stick to a regular routine, in terms of the time they spend online learning, we thought it appropriate to share some tips of ways you could check in with your child in the morning and in the afternoon.

In the morning you may like to ask your child:

- What are you learning today?
- What are your learning goals?
- How will you be spending your time?
- What resources do you need?
- What support do you need?

In the afternoon ask:

What did you learn today?

What was challenging? You could come up with a way to deal with the same problem if it comes up again.

Consider three things that went well today. Why were they good?

Are you ok? Do you need to ask your teacher for something? Do you need help with something to make tomorrow more successful?

These questions allow your child to:

- process the instructions they get from their teachers
- help them organise themselves and set priorities.

You could also check-in with your child throughout the day. This depends on your child's needs.

Children with additional needs whilst they have a range of strengths and abilities that they bring to their learning it may be appropriate to consider your child's needs, and discuss with the classroom teacher.

- when to undertake certain learning activities
- how long your child may be expected to spend on a task
- use of a timer on a phone or iPad, or the oven to help schedule appropriate amounts of time to spend on specific tasks
- use of charts to record progress against the day's learning activities.

You know your child/children best and are already very skilled at understanding and responding to your child's individual needs. Please keep up the excellent work and supports you are providing for your child/children and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need additional supports.

'The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change'. – Carl Rogers - was an American psychologist known for his influential psychotherapy method known as client-centred therapy.

Warmest Regards,

Kathy Cvitkovic – Assistant Principal 3-6 Learning Community

Getting it right in Reading!

Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge 2020



The Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and Melton West Primary School is excited to be participating!

The Challenge is open to all Victorian children from birth to Year 10 in recognition of the importance of reading for literacy development. It is not a competition; but a personal challenge for children to read a set number of books by 4 September 2020.

Children from Prep to Year 2 are encouraged to read or 'experience' 30 books with their parents and teachers. 20 of these (or more) from the challenge book lists.

Children from Year 3 to Year 6 are challenged to read 15 books. 10 of these (or more) from the challenge book lists.

Staff will try to read-aloud some of the texts from the booklists and post these on Class Dojo throughout the term. Watching and listening to these read-aloud videos can be recorded as part of the challenge.

When we return to school, teachers will incorporate these texts into the teaching program and students will also be encouraged to read these during daily independent reading.

We REALLY value your support in taking up the challenge at home.

All children who meet the Challenge will receive a certificate of achievement signed by the Victorian Premier and former Premiers.

To read the Premier's letter to parents, view the booklists and for more information about the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc

Miss Brooke will be in contact with families on Class Dojo with further detail regarding logging in online as well as your child/children's log in details to the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge (PRC).

Sarah Mills

Leading Teacher- Literacy



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

Dear Parents and Carer,

I hope you are all managing in these unusual times and enjoying the extra time with your family. Finding ways to support your child's mathematics learning in everyday life without having to schedule it is wonderfully beneficial to your child *and* friendly to your daily routine. This post from Bright Horizons has some great ideas.

KITCHEN MATH: TEACHING KIDS COUNTING, PATTERNING & SORTING

Have you ever noticed that you're most likely to learn – and retain – a specific skill when you actually have to use it? You can take lots of classes but unless you have regular, hands-on opportunities to practice what you learned, you're likely to forget it.

Children are no different. Worksheets and flash cards might introduce basic principles, such as adding or subtracting, but children need to use these skills in everyday life. Through these experiences, abstract concepts become concrete and meaningful, and knowledge just seems to stick better.

This is good news for parents. You don't have to come up with elaborate learning activities to teach children skills, but you can reinforce lessons through simple daily routines. Take cooking, for instance. Food preparation is something we do every day, and it's also something that most children enjoy. With just a little thought and preparation, even very young children can help in the kitchen. Cooking and working with food is a pleasurable experience that builds relationships and memories. It's also a great way to reinforce math skills.

KITCHEN MATH ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Set the table. The simple task of setting the table offers myriad opportunities to strengthen math concepts. Ask your child to count out the appropriate number of plates, glasses, and cups. Demonstrate how to set a service – where to put the cutlery and glasses. Then ask your child to set the table just as you did, which is an excellent exercise in patterning and visual discrimination. Set the table with cups of varying sizes and ask your child to use a measuring cup to pour the drinks. Point out that one cup of water is always one cup of water, but it looks different, depending on the size and shape of the container.

Organize the pantry. Your pantry offers a treasure trove of learning opportunities. Ask your child to help you put groceries away. Compare different types of cereal, grains or pasta. How are they the same? How are they different? Point out quantities of items. Which containers have more? Which have less?

Get cooking. Children of all ages love to help in the kitchen. Cooking with children not only encourages healthy food habits and valuable life skills, but they learn basic math concepts such as measurements, fractions, and counting. While making a salad, ask your child to count 10 cherry tomatoes. Add 10 pepper slices, olives, or cucumbers. Point out fractions in cooking – $\frac{1}{2}$ cup, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup, 1 cup. Cut sandwiches, pizza, and cheese slices into fourths, thirds, and halves. If you have a kitchen scale, let your child help you measure dry ingredients.

Cooking with your child can be a fun, learning-packed experience. To get the most out of it, prepare ingredients and equipment ahead of time. Gear your cooking experiences to your child's interest and developmental level. Older children, for example, can safely use a blender with supervision. Let younger children help measure, pour, and stir ingredients but keep them away from hot surfaces or sharp tools.

It may be messy but can be lots of fun and a great way to put those maths concepts to practical use.

Jennifer O'Connor
Assistant Principal Prep- 2 Learning Community

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Emergency Support Services



Lifeline

Saving Lives

Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.

LIFELINE: 13 11 14 (24/7)
WWW.LIFELINE.ORG.AU

KIDS HELPLINE: 1800 551 800 (24/7)
KIDSHELPLINE.COM.AU



kids helpline
Anytime Any Reason



ST VINNIES: 1800 305 330
(10AM – 3PM, MONDAY – FRIDAY)
WWW.VINNIES.ORG.AU

EMERGENCY RELIEF PACKAGE PROGRAM:
1800 675 398



MELTON CITY COUNCIL:
03 9747 7200
WWW.MELTON.VIC.GOV.AU

DIRECTLINE (DRUG AND ALCOHOL COUNSELLING): 1800 888 236
WWW.DIRECTLINE.ORG.AU



COURT NETWORK (GOING TO COURT):
1800 681 614
WWW.COURTNETWORK.COM.AU

MELTON SOUTH COMMUNITY CENTRE:
03 9747 8576



PARENTLINE: COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT
13 22 89
7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM TILL MIDNIGHT
WWW.PARENTLINE.VIC.GOV.AU

BEYOND BLUE: 1300 224 636 (24/7)
WWW.BEYONDBLUE.ORG.AU



“CATHOLIC CARE” EMERGENCY RELIEF:
MELTON

MONDAY | 9:30AM – 3:30PM

TUESDAY | 9:30AM – 3:30PM

WEDNESDAY | 9:30AM – 3:30PM

T: 0409 810 104 (CALL BETWEEN 8:30-9:30AM
TUES/WED TO BOOK A SAME DAY APPOINTMENT)

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