



Just checking
in with you all

...

Friday 3rd April, 2020

Hello there Families!

Given the unusual situation we all find ourselves in, we hope this **'checking in' letter** finds you all managing your own particular family circumstances as well as you possibly can.

We are holding you close in our thoughts and prayers and look forward to when we can be together again as a whole school community.

Prayer to Start the Day

Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen to me today that You and I together can't handle.

Amen

Like many of you, a number of members of my own family who work in the medical or education sector are all very busy offering an essential service in the community. We continue to pray for all those St Emilie's families who are in the same boat, as it comes with its own challenges at this time. We also pray for any families who have lost jobs and are doing it tough - our hearts go out to you. Please know that we are here to support you - we can be a listening ear if needed, we can respond to your financial situation as best we can and we can assist you with the remote home learning situation.

Some of my family members are also working from home and attempting to manage their own children's learning, just like you. These children range in age from Year 12 right down to Kindy, so I hear many of the challenges and frustrations they currently face and of course offer whatever advice I can. Likewise, a number of staff members are also trying to juggle working from home and teaching their own children - and this is also not easy, despite their expertise and experience. In the final analysis, **every family needs to make this unprecedented situation work as best they can for their own family.** There will be limitations, difficulties, challenges, frustrations and much more. Just try to breathe, keep the

big picture in mind and simply do your best to keep your home as calm as you can (accepting that conflicts will arise and the best laid plans will go awry).

My husband is working from home and my elderly father also lives with us. Luckily he is through his latest operation and is safe at home now. I am going to and from school each day, however we have set things in place to try and mitigate the risks as best we can. It is tricky for sure, but we give our best effort, despite an imperfect situation.

My husband is often talking to his colleagues in face-to-face online team meetings, both here and overseas and right in the middle of a conversation, one of the team members' children pops up, asking if they can have a biscuit or seeking help with something! You just have to laugh! :) Everyone all over the world is dealing with similar constraints ... and while not ideal, it is a temporary situation.

Remote - Home Learning Plans

As you will appreciate, three weeks ago none of us could have imagined that we would be in a situation where we are trying to redesign our teaching and learning plans into some kind of workable program for parents to deliver. But we are, and so are schools across the whole world. We see this space as a 'work in progress' and it was always going to be a very tall order to get it 'just right' for everyone. Some parents think the amount is great, others think it is too much. I would encourage you to just adopt a commonsense approach in regard to work completion. Literacy and Numeracy assigned tasks take priority and if you or your child is struggling to complete other tasks, you are welcome to communicate with us to see what advice we may have.

Please avoid comparisons between teachers, year levels, or schools. We are busy problem solving our way through obstacles and thinking as creatively as we can to present our children with great learning opportunities that keep them 'on track' to the best of our ability. Parent support is crucial to our success and we thank all of you who are working through challenges proactively and calmly.

The Learning Plan that will be sent to you each week is an attempt to share learning opportunities that reflect the outcomes your children would have been immersed in back at school. Tasks won't necessarily mirror what might have happened at school, because in the



FOR THOSE WHO HAVE
lost track
TODAY IS BLURSDAY
THE FORTYTEENTH
OF MAPRILAY.



Mum Central
2 hrs · 🌐



Problem solving and shape recognition! 😊

HOMESCHOOL PROJECT:
Match The Lids



school environment teachers have a myriad of different resources to use, motivating maths games, online quizzes, guest speakers and so on. Here your child might have been working in a group with a specialist support teacher; here teachers would have been roaming the room, observing progress, modifying the task, redirecting, supporting, challenging and so much more.

Clearly, different families will have different constraints when it comes to delivering the curriculum. **Our simple message is - please just do the best you can, with the time you have, amidst the circumstances you find yourself in.** Ideally, your children will learn with plenty of parent encouragement, a little challenge, and some clear expectations from you.

What else might help?

- Routines can help.
- Having a sense of humour can help.
- If you have more than one child, creating a plan that works best for your family can help.
- Getting older children to support younger children can help.
- Making sure little ones are supervised while older children are trying to learn will help.
- Modifying your work day at home may help.
- Reading through the activities for the day, on your own and then with your child will help.
- Using TV and technology strategically and responsibly will help.
- Working outside in the fresh air can help.
- Building in brain breaks, exercise, healthy snacks, a cuddle, a giggle - can help.
- Give yourself permission to modify as needed - maintaining your sanity will help!.
- In addition to Seesaw, Mathletics and Reading Eggs we have provided you with a number of websites you might like to check out :
[Click here to access USEFUL LEARNING LINKS for FAMILIES](#)
- A little red wine at the end of a long day can help! :)

Feedback and Support

Homeschooling is going well. Two students suspended for fighting and one teacher fired for drinking on the job.

Ah, you've got to laugh!

Many thanks to those of you who have sent **affirming messages of support** to staff members and to us as a leadership team - these are very much appreciated and greatly valued. Please assume that we all are doing our very best, in difficult circumstances, and we adopt the same thinking of families.

The last few weeks have required a great deal of hard work as we have problem solved and worked closely as

a team. I am extremely proud of our staff and while I am not surprised at how professionally they have responded to the current situation, it continues to make me feel very humbled, lucky and blessed.

Parents are very welcome to offer feedback and to seek clarification. Constructive and positive feedback is appreciated because it supports staff motivation, boosts team confidence in this unknown environment, and lets staff know that you value them and all their hard work. If you have feedback that involves a problem, that is absolutely ok. Please be reminded to write your question, problem or query in a respectful and polite way. Please also keep all emails short - if it can't be communicated in a couple of lines then it needs to become a phone conversation. **More information will be provided to families next week regarding communication opportunities with the teacher in Term 2.**

Financial

If your family is affected by job loss, business closure or other financial hardship due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, you are encouraged to please contact us as soon as possible to discuss your individual situation.

Gillian Norris 92569696 School Finance Officer
gillian.norris@cewa.edu.au

Tania Thuijs 92569696 School Principal
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We appreciate how difficult it can be for families to come forward with financial concerns, however please be reassured that we will ensure each case is handled with confidentiality, sensitivity and care.

Please know that we are firmly of the view that no child should miss out on a Catholic education because of financial stress; this includes families seeking enrolment for their children for the 2021 school year.

To those families who have maintained their direct debiting arrangement, or who have contacted us to arrange a slightly different arrangement in regard to fee payment, a sincere thank you. What we are trying to do is keep the lines of communication between families and school as open as we can, so that we can support you as needed, while managing our school budget. There are many unknowns. Just know that we are here to support you and your family to the very best of our ability.

Sincerely
Tania Thuijs
Principal

FROM YOUR CLASS TEACHERS :)



Kindy

Hello Kindy friends,

We hope you are all having fun at home and enjoying spending time with your family. We have loved seeing photographs of children engaged in learning activities at home and samples of work uploaded onto our new Seesaw App. Well done everyone for embracing a new way of learning! The teachers are busy at school planning fun activities for Term 2 learning at home. It is very quiet at school - we miss all our Kindy friends and their happy smiling faces! We are happy to know that you are safe at home and we look forward to seeing you soon,

Love Mrs Reed, Mrs Fleming, Mrs Tay, Mrs Manera, Mrs Airey and Miss Halton xoxo



Childhood is not a race to see how quickly a child can read, write, and count.

It is a small window of time to learn and develop at the pace that is right for the child.

Earlier does not equal better.

Pre-Primary Families

Dear Pre-Primary children and families,

We hope you are having a wonderful week so far! Thank you for the amazing work you are submitting through Seesaw. As first time users of Seesaw we are so proud of you! We love listening to your voice recordings and viewing your work. Keep up the great effort! Please don't forget to read lots of books and have even more cuddles with mum and dad! Please try not to worry about not getting all work completed. All you can do is the very best you can - no stressing! We miss you!

Love from

Mrs Poinen, Miss Bombardieri, Mrs Gomes, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Dobson

Year One Families

Dear Year One,

Thank you so much for your positive feedback about our Week 9 Learning Plan! We have heard many wonderful stories and are so happy to hear that home schooling is going well! We have been busy teaching and planning new learning experiences for you for next term! We hope that all our families stay safe and enjoy the blessings of Easter.

From Mrs Mckenzie, Miss de Gooijer, Mrs Roberto and Mrs Andrews

Year Two Families

Dear Year Two children and families,

We are really enjoying seeing student work on SEESAW. We are especially proud of all those who have now written a persuasive text and recorded themselves reading it. Keep up all of your hard work and we can't wait to see you - hopefully sooner rather than later!

Love and best wishes

Mrs McClenaghan and Miss Massimi

Year Three Families



Dear Year Threes,

Thank you for all the enthusiasm and hard work you have given to your Home Learning so far. We are very impressed by the way you have embraced and engaged with the learning tasks on SeeSaw. We are enjoying reading through and checking all the work you have completed. ***Here are some tips to ensure your learning is the best it can be:***

- Please make sure you read instructions carefully
- There are more than one page for some tasks.
- Use the page menu on the right hand side of the screen to click through each page and check that you complete each question.
- It can be tricky to write your responses neatly using the pen tool, so try using the text box tool (T) to type your answers. This will ensure your responses are clear and easy to read.
- If you are having trouble accessing the link to the Easter Story, please click this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL_8R158Ujp4.

We wish you all the best with your continued learning at home and hope you are finding time to enjoy the beautiful sunshine.

Missing your smiling faces at St Emilie's,

From Mrs Ryan & Miss Williams

Year Four Families

Hello everyone and hoping this little note finds you all safe and well. Below are a few messages from us to the children. Please discuss the following with your child:

1. It is important to read through all of the instruction slides before completing a task, and pay special attention to the **'View Instructions'** button as this is often where we post explanation videos.
2. Please **click draft** if your work is incomplete. **Only press the green tick** when you're completely finished and want to submit your work for your teacher to mark it.
3. Do **not complete your work in green** as this is the colour we will be marking in (as per class rules). We want feedback to be clear and obvious.
4. We have labelled our tasks using the days of the week e.g. WEEK 9 Monday Religion LO: Penance
5. Where possible, if a day is specified in the title, try to complete this activity on that day. All other tasks e.g. specialist subjects where the day is not specified (which may appear on a Monday) can be **spread out over the week**. Please refer to the **Home Learning Plan** which details day specific tasks.

If work is incomplete, not to standard, or we would like you to have another look at the task, it will be sent back to you, where it will appear as **a draft in your journal**. Please have another look at it, make changes and then press the green tick. Thank you to all of the year 4 students who have completed their Integrated Studies task on role models. We loved hearing about those who inspire you, and the reasons behind your choices. Great job Year 4!

Kind regards,

Chara Hynes and Gracie Clune,

Year Four Class Teachers

Year Five

Dear Year Fives,

We have been very impressed with how well you are managing your home learning, and we have enjoyed reading your work and watching and listening to all of your creative answers! Thank you for reading our feedback and using this to improve your work!

Here are some things we have noticed, that we'd like you to work on:

- ❖ Read all instructions carefully, and please make sure you answer EACH QUESTION.
- ❖ Check your work BEFORE you submit it.
- ❖ Have you done everything you need to?
- ❖ Have you read over your work?
- ❖ Have you edited your work, or asked someone at home to edit it for you?
- ❖ Add as much detail as you can. Just because we aren't there to hear your ideas, you need to clearly explain what you are thinking.

Eg. instead of just writing "I find it hard to show patience" you could add ... "BECAUSE I find it difficult waiting for things. I usually want things straight away!" Keep up the great work - we'll check in with you again soon ☺

Mr Naden and Miss Corkhill

PS Parents - please remember that you are very welcome to create your own timetable. Otherwise choose 1 maths, 1 RE, 1 English and 1 other task to work on each day.



Year Six

Dear Year 6 Students,

Happy Thursday! You are nearly at the end of week 9 and most of you have made a really great start with your home learning tasks. Thank you for taking the time to complete your activities and only submitting them once they are completed, showing your very best effort. Some of you are having trouble downloading and uploading some of the items. If this is the case, a good idea would be to spend the first part of your day downloading what you need, work through an activity at your own pace and checking it carefully once you think it is all done. If you want to move onto another activity, or a particular activity requires you to come back to it, then you are able to click draft and this will save your work. We hope you are “helping out at home” in whatever way you can, we know your families and siblings will appreciate it! Take care and keep working hard!

Be-leaf in yourself



NUMERACY

Equations are to be complete on paper showing all working out of each different skill. Including the set challenge questions! Your strategy video must include an equation, working out and a voice explanation of you demonstrating how to solve the equation using your preferred strategy. The strategies to choose from are: The jump, split and compensation - please read over the slides for examples. For some extra revision on the strategies new worksheets will be added to Seesaw. These need to be printed out please! It is important to work through all questions and show clear working out. These worksheets do not need to be added to Seesaw; these can be returned once you come back to school.

LITERACY Please use the text tool to complete all writing questions. You can use the drawing tool for highlighting, circling, matching up answers etc. All other questions need to be typed into a text box. Please feel free to print out the grammar pages, physically complete them and add a photo of the completed pages once completed. The star challenge must also be completed and attached for each unit of work. Your short story should be 1-2 pages. Don't forget to reread your story to improve spelling, grammar and punctuation. You need to develop your story (introduction - middle - end) and put it into paragraphs. Please don't rush this creative task. Please save your PROCEDURE good copy in the literacy - procedure writing folder on Google Drive for marking and printing - Thank you!

RELIGION Your video needs to include images of each station, a description of what is happening, thoughts and feelings of what Jesus was going through and your personal reflection on each station. (Include images, text slides, music and your voice over).

H.A.S.S. Peer Pressure Poster: see examples uploaded to Seesaw. Your poster needs to stand out by being colourful, informative and persuasive, and remember to include all the important and relevant details. This could focus on one area eg how to stand up to peer pressure - or the steps to take to resist peer pressure!

Media Infographic Poster: See examples uploaded to Seesaw - your poster should include good research, statistics and visuals about one type of media category. Don't forget to include information on the history and the positives and negatives.

REMINDERS

Your WEEK 9 PP Grid - All homework is to be completed on the slides provided.

LET US SPARE A THOUGHT FOR, AND SEND A 'SHOUT OUT'
TO ALL FAMILIES WHO ARE JUGGLING A YOUNG CHILD
AND CHILDREN ON THE OTHER END! ... xxxx :)



laugh

A few 'funnies' - please read them in the lighthearted spirit in which they are offered!
Hopefully they will bring a smile to your face during this tough time! :)

Home Schooling Update:
My child just said
I hope I don't have
the same teacher
next year.

KidshofWitMy3sons.com

3 hours into home schooling and 1 is suspended for skipping class and the other one has already been expelled.

Here's Sue. 31 years old, home schooling her kids for the last 5 days. Great job Sue. Keep it up.

If you see me talking to myself this week, mind your business. I'm having a parent-teacher conference.



Please visit the **school website each day** as we are updating information and resources for parents regularly: www.stemiliescps.wa.edu.au

If you are a member of a FB group, please be generous with your comments - build others up, and leave your own reputation and that of others in a good place.

Take care of each other, support your school and staff, check on your children's online activity regularly and trust that this too will pass. May these last days of Lent cause us to pause, reflect and reassess ... our thoughts, our words, our actions so that we walk more authentically in the footsteps of Jesus.

Sincerely,

Tania Thuijs

Principal

LET US PRAY ...

Lord, help me
Be prepared, but not anxious.
Be aware, but not desperate.
Be vigilant, but not in fear.
Be joyful, but not clueless.
Be faithful, but not careless.
Lord, be my hope and strength.

Prayer

Loving God,

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.

When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority and may our community work together for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen

Praying for those who mourn

during this time of the Coronavirus COVID-19

Lord of all gentleness,
You are close to the broken-hearted.
We entrust into your care
those who mourn the loss of a loved one this day.
Surround them with your love
and comfort them in their sorrow.
Grant that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss.
May they know the consolation and support
of the Christian community.
Give them confidence in your goodness
and strength to meet the days ahead.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

