

Week 9 Wednesday 1st April 2020

Thank you! Keep up the great work!

Thanks for the photos of your learning at home. My staff are loving them and other parents are being inspired by them. You have really embraced this opportunity to spend more quality time with your children and to create learning opportunities for your children. We want you to know you are not on your own and we are here to help.

Connect

I trust you have all been able to access the Classroom Content tab in Connect. My teachers have worked hard to prepare this content for you. **If you see a message saying that the class is locked, please ignore this as it just means that the class is locked to student and parent comments and uploads.** You can still click on the class and then access the Content tab and the home learning resources. Due to the number of users now accessing Connect, there may be some delays in connection and also delays in receiving notifications from the class. The Department of Education are working on increasing capacity for the system. Please refer to the information we are sending out through Connect and call or email us baldivisgardens.ps@education.wa.edu.au if you would like some support.

Now is the time to get things sorted at home ready for next term as we will be moving to online learning for Term 2. We will be sending a survey to parents tomorrow via a text message to determine students' access to technology devices at home.

Next Week

Officially the school term ends for students this Friday 3rd April so staff can prepare for the online world of Term 2. Your cooperation with this is requested.

To those parents who need to send their children to school next week because of their employment and they do not have alternative child care arrangements, **we are here for you.** We know and respect some of you are working in hospitals, doctors' surgeries, schools and other essential services. We thank you for your service to our community at this time. Please email us if you are needing to send your children next week. Students who attend school next week will be supervised but not taught as these days are intended as pupil free days.

Our Playgrounds are now Closed

The WA Government announced that as of 11:59pm on Tuesday 31 March, all playgrounds in public places will be closed. It has now been recommended that all schools with playgrounds and/or playground type equipment close them down until further notice. It saddens me to do this as we have tried very hard to give the small number of students still attending some normality. Unfortunately, all playgrounds on our school site are now closed. Parents if you still have to send your children to school can you explain to them the playgrounds will no longer be available from tomorrow.

What is important? What will help make your learning at home successful?

When we opened Baldivis Gardens in 2017 we focussed on a few important things that we believed would create a happy, safe and secure place for your children to learn. We had to work really hard to create that space and thanks to my amazing staff I think we have achieved that. I would like to share with you the simple things we focussed on as they may help you as you create a learning environment at home for your children.

- **Consistent Routine:** In school we strive to have consistent routines and practices. We find our students love knowing what is going to happen each day. We know home is not the same as school, but your children will still thrive on routine and they will thrive on knowing what the routine is. Where possible have a timetable or plan for the day, and sit down and explain the plan to your children. Some children will benefit from what we call a 'visual timetable' which they can refer to throughout the day. Your children may like to create one of these on a whiteboard or piece of paper and display on the fridge or pin up board.
- **Quiet and Orderly Learning Environment:** This was a big one for us and we had to work really hard to achieve this. Many of you have seen and heard the peaceful spaces our teachers have created using quiet music and calming visuals. Most children prefer a calm quiet learning environment, so if it is possible avoid the distractions of radio, TV and loud conversations when your child is trying to focus on their school work.
- **Relationships and Connections:** My staff prioritise building a strong connection with their students and finding the time to listen carefully to what their children have to say. When this happens the learning is so much easier and the outcomes are more positive. Your child will love having you with them every day, and they will love every opportunity to talk to you. So we encourage you to seize the opportunity to have conversations with your children that allow you to get to know each other even more. This is such a rare opportunity to communicate with your school aged children as usually your time is restricted to before and after school. The learning will always be better when the relationships are strong and connected. Learning to communicate openly and honestly with your young children will provide such a strong foundation for their lives as they become adolescents.

Assembly Tomorrow

Mr R and some of our senior students have created an online assembly for tomorrow morning. We will send the video link to you via Connect in the morning and the children who are at school will watch this video in their classrooms. We hope you enjoy it. I thank my staff for embracing the opportunities that now exist to think creatively and outside the box to maintain connections with our students and their families.

I do want to emphasise please don't stress about home learning. Be kind to yourself and remember even teachers take recess and lunch breaks! Don't burn yourself out in the first two weeks as you may have many more to go! Keep the home learning photos coming through so we can post and celebrate your hard work and dedication to your children.

Don't hesitate to call or email me if you need clarification on anything related to our current school situation. We are here for you! Jayne.ebsworthy@education.wa.edu.au

Kind regards

Jayne Ebsworthy
Principal