



TECOMA TIMES

Tecoma Primary School Newsletter



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

REMOTE LEARNING

APRIL 2020



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Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Week 4 is nearly over and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of our families, teachers and staff for your perseverance and patience navigating these uncertain times.

Through working together, you are making remote learning possible, and the positive benefits that will come from this new way of learning will remain long after we are through this pandemic.

The incredible growth in skills for students, parents and staff, is most certainly the positive aspect to this situation. Students are developing independent learning skills that will set them up as incredible life-long learners in Secondary School and beyond.

Parents have the opportunity to learn more about how their children learn and understand the curriculum. In addition, our staff have the opportunity to greatly increase their skills in utilising technology as such an integral part of their teaching practices.

I have been asked how much longer remote learning will continue, considering the “flattening of the curve” that our nation has been able to achieve, with regard to COVID-19. Sadly, we don’t have an inside word. The State Government isn’t leaking any information out which is good for them. We may have a clearer picture after May 11 where the state of emergency will be revised. I’m sure we will all read of what that means to schools in the media after that.

Until then, we assume it will be business as usual or how it has been in the past 4 weeks at least.

The school has lent out over 100 devices, giving out either Chromebooks or iPads depending on the age of the student. We have exhausted our supply of Chromebooks. These were bought in the past 2 years via your voluntary contributions at fees time so our students getting to use these at home is only right. Your contributions are paying off big time at present.

We have a small group of children attending school, where in following government guidelines, the children have no one to look after them requiring them to do remote learning at school. The children here are still working with their teacher remotely. I remind everyone to ensure you have booked via the Attendance Booking form to request attendance, as your needs match the Department of Education criteria. **This must be completed NO LATER THAN Friday 9am** to ensure staffing is organised, as we have only a very small number of staff at school each day. We will communicate back to you each Friday if your request has been approved.

Last week, we trialled “Google Meet” which is embedded into Google classroom with 3 children in grade 6. Google Meet allows us to move down the path of synchronous learning (meeting with a child or a group of children in real time.) We were able to give the Department of Education (DET) feedback on how it performed and what security issues there were. DET worked with Google on this and have tidied up the areas of concern, especially around “hangouts.”

The difficulty with synchronous learning (eg. WebEx, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Zoom) is that not all children’s circumstances are the same. Parents are working from home too. Internet issues up here have been problematic with the nbn rollout and wires cut apparently that shouldn’t have been. We had feedback that there were limited devices in houses, or there might be 2 or 3 children in the house. If we had expected the children to be all meeting online at a certain time, this wouldn’t have worked. We therefore have had to be strategic in how we rolled out what we have. We still have to have recorded video so that the children can access the information the teacher is imparting at a time that suits them or suits the family circumstance.

The purpose for us to open up synchronous learning (Google Meet) is to be able to talk to the children and explain tasks and provide the opportunity to clarify, explain, give feedback, set expectations, share the screen, i.e. 2 way communication. The number of questions teachers are receiving and having to respond to has been huge. One teacher, after coming back from having lunch had 300 contact requests. Our staff have done an amazing job in keeping up with this administration while also, assessing the work coming in and also planning the next level of work.

We are starting Google Meets with grade 6 next week and should that be successful, WE WILL-work our way down the school to grade 3. Prep-2 is a little more problematic as they are using Seesaw and not Google Classroom.

We decided to have student cameras off for privacy purposes. However, yesterday I was informed that Google will be bringing in blurred background (green screen) in the next week to its Google Meets platform. Once this is in place, we can review this decision. We know many children are catching up via FaceTime and Zoom out of school hours. This is a great way for children to see each other in a supervised environment.

As a staff, we have had daily WebEx meetings, where we try and iron out problems of practice. We are missing seeing each other too so these meeting have been important. The positive out of this whole situation is the new skillsets that we have been able to develop as a staff.

We continue to see the positives:

The worked examples and instructional videos shared within Google Classroom and Seesaw that scaffolds the learning and supports students working independently.

The student work that is posted on Google Classroom and Seesaw, displaying how the students are continuing to develop new skills and apply new strategies.

As we continue to evolve in this learning space, it has been invaluable receiving feedback from our school community to celebrate what is working well in our approach to ‘Learning from Home’ and the areas that could be refined. Together, we are all doing our best.

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE

In the last week of term 1, you were sent home information regarding the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

The Challenge encourages students to develop a lifelong love of reading as well as developing important literacy skills. Students in Prep to Year 2 are challenged to read or ‘experience’ 30 books and students in Years 3 to 6 are challenged to read 15 books. If children are just learning to read, you can help them to ‘experience’ books by reading to, or with, them and talking about the story, text and pictures.

For more information about the Challenge, visit the website at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/>

If you would like more information please contact Mrs Tuvey via Flexibuzz.



MOTHER'S DAY

Happy Mother's Day to all of our "Tecoma" Mums, Grandma's, aunts and special friends for Sunday. We hope that each of you enjoy something a little extra special this weekend. Girls and boys, remember to give Mum an extra big hug on Sunday morning and make sure Mum gets the chance to put her feet up.

We hope you and your families are keeping safe and well at this time. See you remotely!

Rohan Thompson
Principal





STUDENT OF THE WEEK



GRADE	NAME	REASON
Prep K	Xavier M	Xavier, I am very impressed with how much progress you have shown with your writing. Your sentences have all the necessary elements (a full stop, finger spaces and a capital letter at the start), and your efforts at sounding out new words, and writing down what you hear are applaudable. Keep up the amazing work!
Prep P	Marlie F	Marlie, I am very impressed with your enthusiasm, dedication and application of the work you have shown me over the past few weeks whilst learning from home. I can see how much you are enjoying all the activities. Keep up that wonderful attitude!
Prep W	Kieran W	Kieran really impressed me when writing about 'Wombat Stew' this week. He wrote all of the sounds he could hear in each word, used his best handwriting and left finger spaces between each word. Awesome work Kieran!
Prep Y	Savannah M	Savannah I am so proud of how much commitment you are showing to learning your letters and your Golden words while learning from home. The work that you are producing is so well thought out. You are taking your time, you are focusing and you are taking so much pride in what you are achieving. Well done!
1C	Alithea B	For improving her handwriting. Alithea, you listened to my feedback and put effort into making sure you were writing your letters on the lines. Well done on doing your best and writing your letters and words more neatly!
1D	Adelaide B	Congratulations Adelaide for putting in 100% effort into your reading. I look forward to listening to you read over the phone each week. Keep up the fabulous effort.
1V	Harry P	Harry, your continuing cheerfulness during this remote learning is helping our community spirit, and I thank you for that! Your commitment to your learning and the effort that you are putting in to produce your personal best for each activity, is outstanding Harry! EXCELLENT WORK!
2L	Lydia M	Lydia has worked hard to complete and submit all home learning tasks. I particularly like her recorded explanations on why she liked or disliked her daily reading books. Keep up the great work Lydia.
2R	Logan V	For the incredible folded life cycle of The Very Hungry Caterpillar you completed for visual literacy. You included detailed illustrations of the different stages and bright colours to make your work interesting. Amazing effort Logan!
2W	Calise L	Calise did a fantastic job in Maths. I challenged her with some tricky additions and she rose to the challenge. Bookwork was super neat as well. Love your work Calise ☺
2W	Ava T	Ava did some wonderful work for Maths. She had to find 3D shapes around the house and she sent back to me over 20 examples. All were correctly identified. That was awesome Ava ☺
3/4G	Taj T	Taj's effort with Remote Learning has just been wonderful. His 'give it a go' attitude is impressive and he should be very proud of the results. Keep up this great attitude Taj! Well done!
3/4K	Jesse M	For your wonderful narrative writing piece about 'The Adventures of Kobe the Corgi and Jasper the Cat'. This was a wonderful story, and I love that it was written from a pets point of view! Thank you for the fantastic effort you have put into all of your work at home over the past few weeks Jesse. Well done! ☺



STUDENT OF THE WEEK



GRADE	NAME	REASON
3/4M	Ashlee T	Ashlee has been producing outstanding work during remote learning. She has been completing all the tasks and to the best of her ability. I have loved seeing your creations and how much you are learning remotely! You should be proud Ashlee!
3/4R	Milla L	For demonstrating creativity and persistence in all her work whilst learning from home. Milla, it has been so wonderful to see you try your personal best and give 100% into all the tasks you complete. I have loved receiving pictures of your work, especially your division poster. Keep up the great work!
3/4W	Nate S	I received an ACTION-PACKED sizzling start from Nate this week, titled 'The Wet Dog'. He used powerful verbs including 'hurling, swerving and bobbing' to get the reader's attention. I am very proud of your efforts Nate, I can tell you are working very hard! Well done! ü
5G	Max L	For working incredibly hard throughout this remote learning period. Max is organised, meticulous and motivated in his approach to online learning and, in his words, "has everything under control". He follows the daily schedule diligently, clearly reads and listens to instructions and submits quality work. It is really impressive to see this independence and resilience in him. Thank you Max for stepping up to the plate and doing your absolute best!
5M	Matilda P	Well done Matilda on the support you are giving your classmates through various means. You are making it so much easier for others, with your guidance and continuing your own wonderful personal work standards.
5S	Sienna S	For demonstrating persistence and resilience when taking on Remote Learning! It has been wonderful to see you seeking support and clarifying ideas! Continue to just give things a red hot go and have confidence in yourself and your choices! Remember, making mistakes is all a part of being a lifelong learner! Great work Sienna! Keep it up!
6F	Saoirse M	Saoirse created the most incredible writing piece in a Seven Steps activity based around a soldier's experience in the First World War. Her writing was mature, complex and full of Tightening Tension and Show, Don't Tell! Saoirse, reading your work was the highlight of my day. Thank you for putting so much effort into your learning!
6F	Cooper G	It has been so heart-warming to see Cooper embrace remote learning. He has shown focus, resilience and a developing ability to manage his time. Cooper has consistently handed his work in and put in 100%. If this is what you can achieve at home Cooper, I can't wait to see what you can do in the classroom when we return!
6R	Madison S	Madison has shown an outstanding commitment to her learning while working remotely. She has quickly adjusted to a new learning platform, persisting when she has found tasks or technology challenging and consistently doing her best to solve problems and complete her work. Maddie, I am extremely proud of the effort you have put in to work out this new style of learning.
Art	Eve C	Eve went above and beyond in this week's art activity. She drew numerous LEGO models, made sure she observed 3D shapes and even added shading. Fantastic work!
PE	Kyla D	Kyla has been doing a great job keeping active while studying at home. Great to see you getting out and participating in some netball drills.
JAPANESE	Sienna N	For demonstrating her excellent language skills in her puppet show video. Sienna-san revised everything she learnt as a teacher in her play. Excellent work!
Music	Aiden W	For his terrific work in his online Music classes. Well done Aiden.

The ART of
Self Defence
Rhee International Tae Kwon-Do



Training@Home

Tues, Thurs & Friday
5:30pm - 6:30pm

 rheetkdvic.com.au
 rheetkdvic@gmail.com

 rheetkdvic
 0488542252

We have been conducting Tae Kwon Do classes at Upwey Primary School for over a decade now but due to Covid-19 we are have had to move our classes online, which has proven very successful.

So much so that we are starting a Beginners Class next

Monday 11th May at 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Regular exercise is very important for keeping fit and although many team sports are currently inactive, we are able to continue our Tae Kwon Do training and invite families to come and give it a go in the privacy of their own home.

If any families from Tecoma Primary School would like to join in via Zoom for these FREE lessons they can get further information from <https://rheetkdvic.com.au>, email me at upwey@rheetkdvic.com.au or via Facebook #rheetkdvic.





Hello everyone! From a very quiet library!

Exciting news for you from book club this term.

All books will be delivered to your home!

Redgum have worked hard to change delivery due to COVID-19 and I know you will all appreciate having some new books in the house.

<https://www.redgumbookclub.com.au/browse/currentcatalog>

What you will see when you click on this link is not all they have on offer either. Looking for something in particular? They may have it, just search in the search box at the top of the page. The best part about buying books for you is that the school receives 20% commission to add books to our school library!

What's NEW

Online Catalogues – There will be no printed catalogue, it is all online and available 24/7 for students and families. Packed with quality new release titles and strongly supporting our Australian authors, illustrators and publishers.

Home Delivery - Full-service home delivery will be freight **FREE** for orders under \$40 and only \$6.50 for orders over this amount. Orders will be dispatched within two days. Students have access to our website 24/7 which is super easy to use without any need for special sign ups or apps.

Ordering – Schools and families can place an order during the catalogue period and anytime outside the catalogue and throughout the year. We are constantly updating our website with current new releases and special offers.

Premier's Reading Challenge

Lovely to see all the books being read for the Premier's Reading Challenge! Keep up the great effort and keep adding all those book reviews; I love reading them and will share some in the newsletter next time.

Remember that Eastern Regional Libraries are offering delivery to members, so if you don't have a library membership, sign up. They have heaps of ebooks and other great stuff to enjoy too like Storybox Library – my favourite. Those in Prep-2 can watch a story and then add it to their challenge list. Great fun!

Stay well!

Jennie T

Form & Practice

Olinda & Mt Evelyn

Physio & Reformer Pilates

- Sports Physio
- Reformer Pilates
- Clinical Exercise & Strength Classes
- Back / Neck Pain
- Headaches & TMD
- Post Operative Rehab
- Knee and Hip OA + GLA:D
- Women's & Men's Health Physio
- Orthotics
- Massage & Myotherapy

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for timetable and pricing
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