



Look who's moving in



IBIS FLYER

Balnarring Primary School

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Acting Principal and Acting Assistant Principal's Report

As another school week draws to a close it is evident that we are all becoming a little more familiar with our new 'teaching and learning' environment.

Remote and Flexible learning has been a huge transformation for staff, students, parents and carers.

In a very short space of time, many roles as we knew them have changed. Teachers are now connecting with their students online and not monitoring their wellbeing and academic progress by their side, parents are supporting their children with daily literacy and numeracy activities and not just fulfilling the nightly home reading and number goal tasks and students are sitting in classrooms - without their peers.

In light of these changes PLEASE BE KIND TO YOURSELVES.

According to 'Family Life' a specialist family services provider, we should all consider that...

- this is not a normal or easy situation and if you are working from home with kids, it IS going to be hard and it will be a juggle.
- concern and worry is normal, *both for adults and children*, in the face of change and uncertainty.
- routine and predictability may help kids to feel safe *but it's ok to be flexible sometimes*.
- **this situation may impact your child's behaviour.**
- you might need to relax your standards for a while both for yourself and your children; *you may allow more screen time than normal and the house may not be as clean and tidy as you would like.*
- you are going to be on top of each other for a while and you may get on each other's nerves.
- this is an opportunity to make new memories.
- you have another opportunity to be a role model for your children in how you respond to these unprecedented circumstances - they will follow your lead.
- seeking support from family, friends or professionals when necessary is okay.

What sound advice!

Earlier this year, when we were all on campus together, families were invited to attend a parent forum that was led by Susan McClean, Australia's foremost expert in the area of cyber safety and young people.

Her advice is most pertinent now.

Please continue to monitor your child's online behaviour.

Accessing work plans and supportive materials via TEAMS and enabling children to ask questions of their teachers online has certainly increased the online traffic into households.

Children (*and 'adult at home' workers*) trying to complete their online tasks have complained of being constantly interrupted by the ding as messages arrive in the chat box.

Details on how to mute notifications are provided on the following page.

Some children have discovered that they can create their own chat groups outside the classroom chat. Again, please monitor what your children are posting. Sadly, some comments this week were neither respectful nor caring of others.

Inviting others into a group and then deleting them is hurtful. Some names of chat groups have been unkind. Yes some upsetting posts have been deleted, but not until after the damage was done.

Using photos from other social media platforms and then using the tools to draw over faces, although funny in family settings, has not been the intention of some 'artists'.

All Balnarring Primary School parents have signed our ICT Agreement on behalf of their children; we need to ensure more than ever that all students adhere to that agreement.

Whenever I am working with technology I agree to...

- Take care of the equipment
- Only work on a device or the internet for the purpose explained by the teacher
- Keep all personal information and respect the privacy and work of others
- Ensure all my posts are respectful of others
- Talk to an adult immediately if something worries me
- I understand that there are actions and consequences established within the school if I do not behave appropriately

With the additional time being spent online

IT WOULD BE BRILLIANT IF ALL FAMILIES
COULD NOW AGREE TO END STUDENT CHAT
ON TEAMS AT 5PM NIGHTLY.

This 'Flexible and Remote Learning' period will pass and our students will return to school to learn and play alongside one another. Let's hope they return feeling proud of the decisions they made when working remotely.

Enrolment forms for 2021 Foundation students are now available on our school website.

Finally, we hope all our mums and special friends have a lovely day on Sunday; we are certain that your wonderful children will help you enjoy another day at home together.

Stay well,
Sandy and Fi.



Sandy Fiona

Mute notifications on TEAMS...

On a computer:

- * Click on the picture icon at the top right at the end of the purple bar
- * Click on settings
- * Click on notifications
- * Under Other change the sounds notifications to off

On Phones/Tablets:

- * Click on the three white lines
- * Click on notifications
- * Click on configure notifications
- * Change the settings to suit you

Family fun when school is out: with children

6-12 years



Making the most of this time with your family.

Ask your children to choose activities and create the day's plan.

Getting outdoors!

Build a hut in the backyard, practice ball game skills, running races, hopscotch, gardening, family picnics in the backyard, clean up the back or front yard, bushwalk, treasure hunt, make letters out of natural objects, play I spy, bird watching, bike riding or make a mud kitchen.

Creative Activities

-Painting, playdoh, build a fort in the lounge room and "camp" inside it, Lego, sticker books, coloring in, slime, scrapbooking, drawing, colouring, origami.
-Learn a new skill-sewing, juggling, languages, balloon animals, dog training, coding.
-Game time: monopoly championships, UNO, gin rummy, chess, checkers, family show and tell, puzzles.
-Read books, practice writing, journaling, worksheets.
-Imaginative play with tea sets, dolls, toys, cars, dress ups.
-Cooking, baking, homemade pizza, Taco Tuesday, food play, food faces, family dinners.



Community activities

Phone family and friends, family reflections on gratitude, use a skill you have to cheer someone up eg knitting a scarf, sending letters/postcards to elderly in local nursing homes or neighbours. Write messages of thanks to local service people in your community, sort through clothes to donate to others, make a birdfeeder using recycled cardboard or wood scraps.

Physical activities

Yoga, mindfulness activities, throw a ball for the dog, obstacle courses, dance party, frisbee, water balloon games, jump rope, hula hoops, slide down hills, trampolining, bike riding, running races, egg and spoon races, sack races, two legged races.



Online and technology based activities

-Virtual tours of galleries, museums, National parks, even Alaska
-School related online learning including Mathletics, Literacy Planet etc as per school logins/availabilities
-Movie marathons with popcorn
-Gaming time
-Podcasts or audiobooks



Support Lines

Kids helpline: 1800 55 1800

Parentline: 13 22 89

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Safe steps: 1800 015 188

Mens Referral Service: 1300 766 491