



Forster Public School Newsletter



Respect

Safety

Personal Best

Term 1 Week 9

Friday 27 March 2020



Principal Report- *Mrs Annie Everingham*

What a difficult and challenging situation we are all in. It is a time when we need to work together, support each other and stay calm and united-yet at a distance. And it will get easier as we get used to change.

I want to thank you all for your ongoing support of teachers, SLSO's and office staff at Forster Public School. We are in uncharted waters and working really hard to ensure we keep up with what is going on around us, ensure your children are safe and supported and ensure staff are safe and supported.

Sadly, we have had to let many of our SLSO's go and our casual teachers have not been needed to take classes.... as in the larger society, this is another flow on affect from this situation.

The office staff have had a huge number of phone calls, requests for remote learning packs and information. Not once have our office staff been negative or complained under these testing times. We are so fortunate to have such professional office staff. Thank you for following our requests re procedural actions (please see further information in the newsletter). Parents have been so lovely and supportive, understanding the situation as we get things up and running to support learning at home.

We understand that home learning can be challenging and that it is difficult to stick to schedules, especially over a long period of time. It is important that you be kind to yourselves and enjoy moments with your children outside, cooking cakes and biscuits, gardening, watching movies together, reading books together, giving children their space and time alone and time to connect with their friends over phones etc... We are all in this together and need to support each other.

My staff have been incredible, working under some very challenging situations trying to make sure it does not impact on the students in their care. I have many staff

working from home to support staff at school by providing remote learning packs, programs, doing online learning and updating policies and units of work. We are all doing our part to support our community and are grateful for your appreciation and support.

We do not know how long this will continue so we have staff developing packs for next term. We are collectively learning a lot about other ways to communicate learning to students at home and will continue to grow in this area.

It is so important we stay calm and positive. We trust you can manage this in your home too given the influx of media information and demands.

At school we are ordering staff lunches and coffees from our local cafes to show our support for them in this difficult time.

On Friday you may have seen us wearing loud, bad taste, ugly shirts! My husband thinks the pink cricket one he bought for me is perfect for him for the January cricket Test next year. I certainly won't be wearing it again! It is our way of trying to bring some humour into the workforce and have a laugh.

As a team we decided to offer phone interviews over the next few weeks. This way we can touch base with our students and inform parents about the progress students are making in class and the areas that require more support and focus.

When able, staff will be released from their duties to call parents. This will depend on student attendance and future plans around what schools will "look like" in the coming days/weeks. If staff call and you are unable to take their call, but would like to have a conversation, please call the school back and give some alternate times.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Keep safe everyone and savour the time with your children in this unusual situation.

Annie Everingham
Principal

REMOTE LEARNING PACKS

We have a large amount of packs that have been requested by parents and have not been collected yet. Please come and collect as it is costly to be printing remote learning material that is not being used.

We have been requested to ensure you all understand that children's attendance will be determined as flexible if they are continuing their learning from home. If there is no evidence of students completing work at home and parents have not informed us that their child is sick they will be marked **A** which is unjustified. The only way we can determine this is to either request you return the completed packs for marking when picking up your next pack or engage with your learning through technology with your child's classroom teacher.

It is crucial that your child is engaged in learning whilst not at school. This will ensure there are limited gaps in their learning. It also encourages keeping to routines. We understand that this is not an easy situation for all involved and some students will find working from home a challenge. Please just hand in what they are able to complete.

We want all families to stay happy and stress free.

Stay safe everyone!

Message from Kitchen & Garden

We have still been productive in our programs with the children who are at school this week.

We have moved to garden activities and craft to be outside in the sunshine when we can.

This week we explored herbs in the garden & made herb tea's and talked about the benefits of drinking herb tea for our health. We also made herb posies and talked about the history of where the word "posies" became popular-can you guess? Posies were wedding gift's & given to the Bride.

The pumpkin patch has gone crazy & flowing everywhere- the children learnt about "Boy Flowers" & "Girl Flowers" and how important it is for the bees to pollinate so the pumpkin can grow, which can only come from the girl flower. They also weeded & pulled out the overgrown kale in the garden bed to get ready for some more plants. Next week we'll share some ideas to do at home - for now enjoy the sunshine.



LOUD SHIRT COVID-19 RELIEF



Forster Public School proudly stands on Wurimi land

Head Street Forster 2428 Tel: 65556766 Email: forster-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Home School Packs

We will strive to support families and students by providing you with Home School Packs which include both online and offline educational resources that your child can access while they are learning from home.

These learning packs are organised by grade levels and include website addresses for online learning opportunities. They include a range of resources covering curriculum content and can be completed at home by children independently or with the assistance of their parents or guardians if required. The activities can be completed in any order and have been selected to allow parents and guardians to easily implement them.

The activities can be adapted by parents or guardians to address the learning needs of each individual child. The work may be completed in an exercise book as opposed to printing every page from the learning pack. Students currently attending school are completing the same content as those partaking in home learning. Home School Packs will be uploaded onto Skoolbag for parents and students to access each Monday morning, covering the learning content for that particular week. Alternatively, if you require a hard copy, please let the office personnel know in advance and these can be collected from the front office when handing in completed booklet from the previous week. **Please don't forget to ring ahead so these can be printed in advance.** Stage boxes will be located out the front of the office for you to drop your child's completed work in. Take this as an opportunity to engage in tasks that interest your child such as cooking, gardening, science experiments, researching, playing board games or reading a book.

We will continue to reach out to parents to keep them informed with information through our school Face Book page and our Skoolbag App.



Guidelines for learning from home

NSW Department of Education

Remote learning guidelines for students and parents



Stay connected



Ask questions



.....
If you don't understand something, ask your teacher or classmates online.

Workspace



.....
Work in a quiet area, at a desk or table and try to limit distractions.

Use classroom language



.....
Talking to your teachers and in class is different from how you speak to your friends online. Use proper grammar and avoid excessive emojis.

Focus



.....
During calls with your teacher, stay focused on the call. Avoid reading chats or looking at other tabs.

Take breaks



.....
Take breaks away from screen. Move around and try not to sit all day.

Your normal routine



.....
Eat breakfast, brush your teeth and get dressed in the morning.

education.nsw.gov.au



Your child might feel a little unsettled with the changes to their normal school routine and are likely to ask some questions. Listen to your child and help them to express their feelings. Let them know that it is okay to feel a variety of emotions. Enjoyable activities such as reading a story, watching a family movie together or playing a game can provide reassurance to young children.

Additional online resources:

The following links to department and external resources to support students at different stages of development.

Maths Fun

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/>

This is a great site full of activities for kids who love maths.

Primary School Resource

<http://www.primaryschool.com.au/index.php>

Contains many links to lessons, activity and content for all KLAS and specialist areas. Section on gifted education has good local and overseas links.

Puzzles and Games for Thinking

<http://www.brainquest.com/>

A site containing clever puzzles and games for downloading. Use many different thinking strategies.

Twinkl

<https://www.twinkl.com.au/offer>

Worksheets and hands on activities for all KLAS.

Wordplay

<http://www.wordplay.com.au>

A recreational program that focuses on literacy and thinking skills, through the Arts (particularly drama) and enables young people to showcase their talents through original performance. Holiday programs also available.

Khan Academy

<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/early-math/cc-early-math-counting-topic>

Maths and computer programming website which features explicit videos and activities for students to complete.

Pevan and Sarah

<https://pevanandsarah.com/cub-club/>

One month free membership. Interactive videos and activities based on literacy and numeracy for K-2

Vooks

<https://www.vooks.com/parent-resources>

Online story books. One month free subscription. Comes with corresponding plans for parents.

Oxford Owl for Home

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>



Free online story books. Literacy and numeracy resources and interactive games.

ABC

<https://www.abc.net.au/children/>

Educational videos and interactive games for all KLAS.

Reading Eggs

<https://readingeggs.com.au/>

Prodigy Maths

<https://www.prodigygame.com/>

SPELD

<https://www.speld-sa.org.au/service/163-speld-sa-phonetic-books-set-1.html?fbclid=IwAR0ZPYwM-tQ3Fac6FarsiXWM4GR08PD2tayz-nuL-YW5UVaaLX4A590OUhQ>

Phonics activities and printable readers

Phonics Hero

<https://www.phonicshero.com/>

Free 7 day parent trial. Interactive phonics and sight word games and activities.

Educational Games:

<https://www.abc.net.au/abckids/games/>

<https://www.aussiebroadband.com.au/blog/15-best-online-educational-games-kids/>

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/collection/learning-games>

<https://www.education.com/games/>

<https://www.indypl.org/blog/for-parents/free-video-read-alouds>



BTN

<https://education.abc.net.au/home-old>

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/>

NAPLAN

<https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests>