



Forrest Primary School
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30 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we miss you all!

The Year 2 Team has been very busy over the last month, upskilling and learning all about online, remote learning. We have been learning how to use online platforms such as Seesaw, Google Meets, Mathletics and Reading Eggs to prepare and deliver high quality education in your homes. During this time, we have been attending and hosting professional development webinars, practising new skills and working closely with all the staff at Forrest to ensure we are creating valuable learning experiences for our students.

We are still dreaming about when we were all in the classroom together, sharing stories and exploring new concepts with our curious, bright-eyed students! This is not what we expected this year to look like and it is an adjustment for us too. We are already looking forward to the day when we are all back at school. Until then, we will be pushing forward with online learning.

Seesaw will be Year 2's main platform for online learning. We ask that this becomes our main source of communication between families and teachers to ensure everything is in one place. **Please check Seesaw regularly.** We will be using 4 online platforms for remote learning.



Each day, one of the Year 2 Teachers will do a brief check-in and this will show up in announcements. This will usually be a short video on Seesaw where we say hello and give an overview of the day ahead.



Activities will be assigned daily and they will pop up when logged in as a student on the class app or on a computer. They will be able to click 'add a response' and parents will see completed work on the family app once it is approved by the teacher. Teachers will also have the opportunity to send work back with feedback for students.

Each day, a range of activities will be assigned to students to complete and will be briefly outlined in the daily video. Student responses can be done in a number of different ways to accommodate for different learning styles. This means that they can record themselves, take a photo of their book or even type a response.

Activities will be moved to the archive after one week. This ensures that students do not have an overwhelming to do list if it doesn't work for them that week. Once a task is completed, it will remain in the student's journal.

Class Google Meets will be scheduled weekly. This is an opportunity for students to interact with their peers and participate in targeted learning. The group sizes and times may vary each week depending on student need.



2B 10:00am Wednesday
2C 10:00am Wednesday
2FD 12:00pm Wednesday
2R 10:00am Wednesday

Reading Eggspress will be used for students to access different areas of our English programme. This means that students will be assigned books at their level as well as spelling lessons.



In the future, we will be trialling our Guided Reading Programme using Google Meets and the books assigned on Reading Eggs.

It is expected that students are logging in when asked on Seesaw and completing any assigned tasks.

**Please note that Reading Eggs lessons do require quite a bit of time to complete. Students will have one week to complete assigned tasks.*

Mathletics will also be used as part of our Maths programme. Students will be assigned tasks to consolidate what is being taught on Seesaw.



It is expected that students are logging in when asked on Seesaw and completing any assigned tasks.

**Please note that students will have one week to complete assigned Mathletics tasks.*

In terms of our specialist programmes, our specialist teachers have been busy preparing for whole school online learning. Here's an idea of what it will look like:

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Teacher: Daniel Heap

daniel.heap@ed.act.edu.au

Students will be assigned design challenges that may stretch across several weeks. They will be encouraged to attach photos and videos of what they have made, and feedback will be provided. Any instructional teaching required to be successful in the design challenges will be provided in the form of recorded videos and put up as part of the assignment on Seesaw. It is expected that students put aside around an hour a week (but they are welcome to spend more time than that) to work on the STEM projects, which can be worked around other classroom commitments. Mr. Heap will organise a live Meet later in the term to share completed projects with each other.

Physical Education (PE)

Teacher: Charles Fairfield-Smith

charles.fairfield-smith@ed.act.edu.au

Mr Fairfield-Smith will be hosting a range of online PE lessons for students and the community. These lessons will be viewable for all to play, following the live recording. These will be focusing on fundamental movement skills and movement composition.

- Tuesday 10:00am live Junior PE lesson
- Thursday 9:30am live community PE session

Library

Teacher: Louise McMullen

louise.mcmullen@ed.act.edu.au

Once per week, students will be able to engage with a story to support the Unit of Inquiry or themed day via the Library Folder in Seesaw.

Japanese

Teacher: Christine Thambipillai

chris.thambipillai@ed.act.edu.au

The Japanese language programme will continue in Term 2. Associated language activities will be provided using the Seesaw platform.

Finally, we understand how difficult it has been to adjust to this new life where your entire family is at home to work, learn, eat, play and live full time, which is why we are not giving you a rigid timetable of what must be done. Please do what works in your household for your family. We understand that working, parenting, and teaching are three different jobs and cannot be done at the same time. Your homes are not schools and it's impossible to recreate the same environment in your house. A set timetable may not work for your family which is why we are trying to keep this as accessible for you as possible. Your child may complete a task in ten minutes or may not because of constant distractions. Do the best you can!

Our belief is that learning should be a positive experience. During this challenging time, it is important that students have opportunities to explore interests, read and write for pleasure, engage in physical activity and take time to process this new way of life. While we will be setting daily tasks, we do not expect your 'home school' to be run between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Take your time, and do what works for your family. Take a break. Play together, cook together, be outside together, watch your favourite movie together. These are all rich learning experiences. Do not stress. Everything will be OK! Being a parent during this time is way more important than being a teacher.

Of course, if you need any support or have any questions, please contact your child's teacher through Seesaw or email. If you ever want to talk over the phone, let us know – we are social distancing too and love a good chat!

Thank you for being so supportive and positive. Keep smiling, stay healthy and most of all, enjoy your extra family time together. We will be back at school as soon as it is safe to do so!

♥ The Year 2 Team

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