



Forrest Primary School
9 Hobart Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603
Phone: 02 6142 1470
Email: forrestps@ed.act.edu.au
Website: www.forrestps.act.edu.au



1 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 2. We miss you all!

The Kindergarten team have been busy over the last month! We have been attending and conducting online learning, practising and making mistakes on the way. But most of all, we have been dreaming of the good old days where we'd have a bustling classroom full of bright-eyed students. This is not what you dreamed your child's first year of school would be like. But time will pass, and we will be straight back into school drop-off, constant uniform-washing and canteen orders!

We have now begun remote learning through online platforms. **Seesaw Classroom** and **Seesaw Family** is Kindergarten's main platform for communication, teaching and feedback. Logins and passwords for all online platforms have been sent to you by Daniel Heap. If you do not have your codes, please email your child's class teacher and they will send them to you. Also, if you are unable to access either Seesaw Classroom (for your child) or Seesaw Family (for you) please contact your child's class teacher via email.

Below is the proposed plan of what remote learning will look like for Kindergarten students this term. We will start slow, with one or two activities submitted each day, and then build up, based on your feedback and the student's understanding of and familiarity with this new form of learning. We acknowledge that some students might require more time or less time to complete the set activities, which is why feedback will continue to be incredibly beneficial to us. We also acknowledge that for some families, none, some or all of the activities might be completed, and this is absolutely okay.

Here is what remote learning will look like this term:

- We have created a **Learning Framework** (see image below) which sets out what your day *could* look like. Please note, we have not added specific timeframes to this Framework, as we completely understand how crucial flexibility is at this time. Each task has a suggested duration of approximately 30 minutes, but this is completely dependent on the individual child.
- Once a week your child will be scheduled to meet with their teacher and a small group of children. This is an opportunity for the teacher to conduct a mini lesson with the group of students, and to check in with them. These groups will be flexible and will change based on student needs. The scheduled times will be organised through Seesaw announcements, but hosted through Google Meet (online video chat forum), so the students can see and interact with their peers and their teacher.
- Each Kindergarten teacher will concentrate on a particular learning area. At 8:00am each morning, these teachers will be uploading the tasks through the 'Activities' tab on Seesaw. These tasks will be delivered through either video or a written lesson plan, and will require scaffolding from you.
- Each task will have a specific learning intention, so that you know exactly what the end product needs to portray. For example, Task: The student traces their hands and writes the numbers 1-10 on each finger. Outcome: The student can write the numbers 1-10.

Please assist your child to complete the work by reading aloud questions or asking prompting questions like, 'Does that look right?'

- Each week, a **Matrix of additional activities** will be shared through Seesaw. These activities will be connected to our Unit of Inquiry and will include Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music, Play Based Activities, Positive Education and the Learner Profile. If your child has completed the set work for the day, this Matrix gives you extra learning tasks and ideas to keep your child engaged.
- We ask that after a task is completed, the parent assists the student to upload a photo of their completed work onto the student's Seesaw account. The classroom teacher will reply to the completed task, with feedback and a huge WOO HOO! Basically, a virtual sticker!

Kindergarten Learning Framework - Term 2

Daily Timetable for Learning (optional)	
Task	Suggestion Duration
Literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phonics• Reading and Writing• Spelling• Handwriting	30min
Maths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numbers 1-20• Shape	30min
Matrix of Unity of Inquiry with Visual Arts, Music, Drama & Dance, Learner Profile, Positive Education and Play Based Activities	

Supplementary Book

We have also developed a supplementary booklet that reviews Kindergarten concepts (number sense, grammar and sight word spelling). We recommend that your child completes one page from each booklet, each day, *if possible*. We have chosen to send these booklets to all Kindergarten families to provide simple and straightforward tasks for your child to complete *independently*. (We hope this helps you as parents, when you need some time to fold the washing in peace or complete a 5000-word document for work!). These booklet tasks are not mandatory at this time, and if you do not use them now, they can be completed at a later time! We have printed and named a booklet for each student. You can collect your child's booklet from the Forrest Primary School front office any time from Monday 4 May.

What will the specialist programmes look like this term?

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.

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.

Physical Education (PE)

Teacher: Charles Fairfield-Smith

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

Once per week, students will be able to take part in a live PE lesson with Mr Fairfield-Smith that will focus on fundamental movement skills and movement composition. This will be VIA a YouTube link shared with classes. The lesson will be viewable for all to replay, following the live recording. The time of the live lesson will be discussed but hopefully early on a Monday or Tuesday.

Japanese

Teacher: Christine Thambipillai

chris.thambipillai@ed.act.edu.au

To be advised

Most importantly, we understand that your lives are not normal right now. You may be in isolation and have children of different ages trying to complete learning tasks. You may be working from home, as well as trying to marinate dinner, put your baby down for a nap and teach your child to count. Your homes are not schools, and a set timetable may not work for your family, which is why we have not added rigid times or restrictions. Your child may complete a task in ten minutes or because of constant distractions (hanging out washing or scraping unicorn stickers off the walls), may not ever finish. This is OK! We have set daily tasks, but we do not expect your 'home school' to be run between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Take your time. Do what works for your family. Take a break. Do not stress. Everything will be OK.

And 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 a chat over the phone, let us know – we are also in isolation and love a good chat! If you are comfortable, we will also continue with **check-in phone calls** this term, every three weeks. These will be scheduled with you and will show up as 'no caller ID'.

Thank you all for being so supportive and positive. We will see you soon.

The Kindergarten Team (who miss you all soooo much!)

Erika Alling	erika.alling@ed.act.edu.au
Sam Bird	samuel.bird@ed.act.edu.au
Ilana Keeley	ilana.keeley@ed.act.edu.au
Jordanna Robson	jordanna.robson@ed.act.edu.au
Bella Lucchesi	bella.lucchesi@ed.act.edu.au