

# *Distance Learning Guide*



**Beaumaris**  
Primary School

*At Beaumaris Primary School we understand that in these unprecedented times it is very challenging for many of our families. We appreciate that distance learning will look and feel different for everyone.*

*We are working hard to make this process as simple and successful as we can. We trust the following information will support all families during this tough time.*

## **What is Distance Learning?**

We are planning to provide a continuation of learning from home in the event that our school is closed due to a lockdown. Teachers are ready with a combination of online learning and packages that families can access to support their child's learning at home.

We believe first and foremost the health and well-being of our families is the priority. Parents can be flexible and modify the learning to meet the needs of their family. We plan to deliver education through online, face to face and paper methods with teachers deciding to do and use what they know is best for their students in the learning program.

Teachers will create plans ready for families to access through Seesaw, our school preferred home/class communication platform. The plan provides sufficient work and activities that are a combination of revision and consolidation. Parents are not expected to take the place of teachers, however, there are now further opportunities for parents to become critical and active partners in their child's learning. To achieve this our teachers will be in regular contact with families.

## **Developing a manageable distance learning program**

To distance learning plan will:

- Contain a combination of learning that requires internet/online connectivity and learning that can be completed without technology
- Allow students to work at home with basic materials
- Contain a combination of revision of previous learning and consolidation of curriculum content
- Require students to read and write every day
- Require students to complete basic mathematic fact activities every day
- Have a focus on English and Mathematics
- Complete 'must do' activities that are to be submitted to the teacher for feedback
- Integrate learning and provide opportunities that are fun and engaging
- Outline what can be done during the day and considered within individual family circumstances.
- Be posted by the class teacher on Seesaw and emailed to parents

Parents will make the best decisions around their individual circumstances for that day. Older students should have a level of autonomy on their learning whilst younger students will require more support and guidance. Our underlying philosophy; however, is to keep things simple for all families and not add to any anxiety that is being experienced in our community.

## **Staying connected to our community**

Our priority is staying connected with our families and most importantly, our students. We know many of our students would like to hear from their teacher, and parents will likely have questions along the way. Our communication platforms will be **Seesaw**, **email**, and **phone**. The following will help you with any queries:

- Teachers will respond to questions between 9.00am-3.00pm each day via phone, email or Seesaw.
- Teachers will create a daily schedule with possibilities to connect with each child in their class weekly via phone or video conference.
- Teachers will post messages to students via Seesaw for some video conferencing and lessons.
- Students will submit the teacher 'must do' identified tasks through Seesaw to their teacher for feedback
- Teachers will provide feedback to students on the work submitted using Seesaw.

## **Making distance learning successful**

Teaching and learning during a pandemic are of importance, but mental health and safety is the most important. We understand the complexities of home lives and the stress and anxiety everyone in our community is facing at this time.

To support a sense of routine, the following general tips for parents will provide children with structure and ownership of their learning.

- Parents model a secure and positive learning environment.
- Establish a learning zone that is organised and prepared for each day's lessons
- Be encouraging and supportive to develop independent learning skills to complete learning tasks.
- Pack up and tidy away the learning zone at the end of each day.
- Schedule regular breaks and play opportunities with snacks and water on hand.
- Be positive and enthusiastic, taking an interest in your child's lessons and attempts at the activities provided.
- Discuss the work with your child answering any questions they have.
- Check your child's work but **leave any incorrect work**. Corrected attempts underneath work will inform the class teacher to provide supportive student feedback.
- If you have more than one child, the elder sibling can take on the role as a peer support.
- Discuss teacher feedback with your child.
- Be flexible and adaptable during the day. Sickness, tiredness, interruptions planned or unplanned will occur.
- Develop a timetable of the day to suit your needs and situation.
- Look for alternative learning that involves cooking, playing, outdoor activities and jobs around the house.

## **Share with us- Celebrate learning!**

We would love to see children's learning from home. We encourage parents to post pictures on Seesaw and email your child's teacher. We would love to share this with our school community so we can all stay connected.

Take pictures or share a video with us of the following.

- The learning zone set up at home
- Children working on their tasks
- Families working together
- Art and craft activities
- Physical activity, exercise and games
- Cooking and gardening

The aim is to celebrate learning and motivate your child to engage in learning from home. Taking pictures and videos is a great way to document the experience that will be a historical time in all of our lives.

## **Don't forget about play!**

Children are naturally curious about the world around them. They experience and come to understand the world and their place in it through play. Creating opportunities for children to explore, experiment, question and discover new concepts about the world in playful ways is central to their learning, development and wellbeing. Play can happen both inside and outdoors. You don't need expensive toys or equipment. Learning through play can build on everyday activities in the home and make use of common household items. Cardboard rolls and boxes, plastic cups and buckets, wooden spoons, food packaging, old clothes and pots and pans are just some of the items you could use. So what are you waiting for? Get creative!

## Distance Learning Collaboration

The *Distance Learning Guide* has been linked to our four values of WE ARE RESPECTFUL, WE DO OUR BEST, WE ARE SAFE, and WE ARE RESPONSIBLE. It provides a guide on how we can implement a team approach to home learning. Our expectation is that ALL children feel safe and supported at this time.

Students	Parents	Staff
<b>We are respectful</b>		
Provide feedback on how you are feeling regularly on Seesaw to your teachers.	Communicate with teachers through Seesaw.	Provide regular communication regarding learning through Seesaw.
Ask for help.	Ask for help.	Have weekly check-ins with all families through Webex/Microsoft Teams.
Let your teacher know if you need any materials for home.	Ask for print materials if you do not have access to technology.	Have print materials available for families without access to technology.
Be supportive of your parents, listen, help and do your best under the circumstances.	Be supportive of your child and teacher who are all trying to do their best under the circumstances.	Be supportive of student and parents as they do their best under the circumstances. Every family is different.
<b>We do our best</b>		
Develop your own individual routine for the day.	Be flexible but help establish a daily routine with your child.	Learning needs to be easily accessible by ALL students.
Check for communication from your teacher every day.	Ensure students take regular breaks drink water regularly and have some fun too.	Learning tasks will be provided on website/seesaw.
Have all your materials ready to go for a day of learning.	Begin and end your day by setting out and packing away equipment.	Focus will be on consolidation and revision.
Keep your workspace neat and tidy. Pack away your materials at the end of the day.	Encourage meaningful play and physical activity. Learn from playing, building, making, creating and exercising.	Learning will be fun and integrated. Allow for play based learning tasks
Complete any required tasks by the deadlines set by your teacher and send back for feedback	Help your child send back work required for teacher assessment and feedback	Provide feedback to the selected learning tasks you have asked to be completed by students.
<b>We are safe</b>		
Be kind to yourself and others.	Be kind to yourself and others.	Be kind to yourself and others.
Write to yourself about what you are doing, your thoughts and feelings each day in a journal.	Sit down have a coffee, ring a friend and chat!	Check in with a colleague, take a breath, we know you're doing your best!
<b>We are responsible</b>		
Reach out to your classmates if you are feeling down	Don't think you have to be the teacher, be a parent and support.	Contact and communication makes your students day.
Practise safe digital citizenship. Be safe and sensible online.	Create a family online contract for using technology. Set boundaries around screen time.	Establish communication during school hours (8.50 – 3.00).
Stay calm, if you are unsure about anything, just ask!	Set good practices around online screen time.	Year level learning will be consistent and appropriate for home completion.

## **Student and family wellbeing**

We are here to continue to offer support to students and families. Please make contact and reach out to us when you need support by email on [beaumaris.ps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:beaumaris.ps@education.wa.edu.au)

During these difficult times, maintaining a positive wellbeing may be a challenge. It is important that you know how to cope with stress by using positive self-talk, exercise, eating healthy, connection with their friends and finding ways to enjoy themselves.

## **Available resources to support wellbeing**

### **World Health Organization**

The World Health Organization have strategies to cope with stress during the COVID-19 outbreak.

[Helping children cope](#)

### **Beyond Blue 1300 224 636**

Is available for children learn to self-manage their emotions, becoming more confident, capable and in control. Positive mental health and wellbeing is very important during COVID-19.

### **Student Wellbeing Hub**

Information and resources for students to keep healthy, happy and get the most out of school can be found [here](#).

### **Reach out**

A list of self-care activities that you can do from home can be found [here](#). They'll help you feel a little better and give you a sense of control during a very uncertain time.

### **Kids Helpline 1800 551 800**

Provide emotional support to children and young.

## **School contact details**

Ph. 6206 3100

E-mail:

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