

NEWSLETTER

Skye Primary School

Message from the Principal

Hello Skye Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. Congratulations to you all for making it through the first two weeks of what can only be described as a very different term. I would like to thank you all for your courage and support as we have navigated our way through the unknown world of remote learning. I am proud to say that we have almost every child now accessing live lessons with their teachers and completing tasks both online and in their workbooks. I believe that we are well and truly on track in setting a great example of what excellent practice in remote learning looks like.

I would like to thank our amazing staff for their tireless efforts, working together to embrace communicating and teaching in what is a very new way for all of us. As we now settle into somewhat of a routine, our teachers will be going live with smaller groups of students to provide more targeted teaching and support. Please do not hesitate to touch base with your teachers on Teams should you have any questions. They are always there to assist.

I would also like to acknowledge our wonderful students in all of this. They have been stuck at home for weeks now, their routines are different and their social world is limited yet they have jumped on board with excitement and enthusiasm. We really miss them and cannot wait to all be back together at school when this is all over.

I wish I had some wise words to assist you all at this time, but I don't. It is tough. It is messy and it will never be ideal. What I do know is that more than ever, parenting at this time is all about routine and consistency. As parents, we need to stick together and set tight boundaries, strict routines and high expectations. It is so hard when we are trying to do our own work, look after the household, prepare meals while also trying to oversee our children and their school work. It is important to remember that your children are very capable of sitting for considerable chunks of time to complete a task independently. We train them from the first few days of prep to begin a task and stick with it on their own, albeit for 5-10 minutes in the beginning. By Year 6, they can easily work independently for a good 40 minutes. We expect it from them and so should you. Teachers will definitely be holding their students accountable for completing tasks to a satisfactory level during their small group conferences. It is not expected that they are on task for long sessions. Small chunks with lots of breaks works well. You may need to set goals with your child and even bargain with them eg. 30 minutes on task = 15 minutes PlayStation time.

Again, we are all in this together. Please stay safe, remain home until we are advised to do otherwise and be kind to others because you never really know what is happening for individuals in their personal life. It is a difficult time for everyone, in one way or another. We are so lucky to belong to a caring and supportive community here at Skye.

I look forward to seeing many of you online in the coming weeks.

Jane Briffa

Please see the information below should you require Internet access. -

Accessing the NBN Education Internet Access Package for Families

The Department has placed orders for 21,000 internet dongles. The first 11,000 of these will be available for distribution in the week commencing 27 April. However, due to international supply issues, availability of the second 10,000 will not commence before week 5 of term. In the meantime, there is an alternative for families to access an internet service where they live in an area with NBN.

NBN Education Package

NBN Co announced that they would be waiving access fees for internet service providers (ISPs) to enable the ISPs to provide disadvantaged families with internet access at significantly reduced or no cost.

The families need to meet certain criteria, including:

- they reside in an NBN serviced area
- they do not have an existing NBN service
- they have school aged children living at the residence
- they are in receipt of a Job Seeker Allowance or Family Tax Benefit

Advantages of the NBN Education Package

Having the NBN service will provide WiFi internet access to all students in the household. This is a considerable advantage over a dongle that needs to be assigned to individual students. Even though the dongle may be used for multiple students, the service will degrade considerably if this is done.

Accessing the Education Package

To date there have been two ISPs who have established this service for disadvantaged families.

These providers are:

Superloop - <https://www.superloop.com/education/>. This service can only be accessed by the family.

Aussie Broadband - <https://www.aussiebroadband.com.au/>. This service requires a school to register interest before families can access. Schools should ensure they maintain compliance with the [Privacy Policy](#) and not provide sensitive information to any vendor.

It is expected that other ISPs will offer similar packages over the coming weeks.

Any Associated Costs

If there are any charges for the education service, they are expected to be considerably lower than normal internet access packages. Please contact your school to discuss how they might be able to assist with these costs if you receive CSEF funding.

Photos—Home Learning & Driveways at Dawn



Thank you to all our families who have sent in photos of Home Learning and Driveways at Dawn—it's not too late if you have some photos to send in—skye.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

[Driveways at Home](#)—Thursday at 5.00pm

[Home Learning](#)—Sunday 3rd May

These photos will be used on our website and social media platforms



Wellbeing Corner

Welcome to Term 2, 2020! A term like no other term that we have experienced in our lifetimes. First and foremost I just want to take this opportunity to thank you all for the amazing work you are doing to support your children while undertaking the challenging task of assisting with remote learning.

Over the first two weeks of term I have spoken to many of our teachers, parents and students. I am super proud at the effort and commitment that has been shown towards ensuring that remote learning is running smoothly. During my conversations, many people have mentioned that they at times are feeling overwhelmed. This is a normal feeling, and I believe it is really important to take some time to acknowledge how you are feeling and take some time for yourself. I understand that it may seem hard to do that when you are multitasking, working from home, helping your children and possibly feeling torn into a million directions. However, taking some time for yourself can be to walk outside and feel the sun, and take a three deep breaths. Finding moments in busy days to reset is an important skill to help stay mentally healthy, especially during this time when many are feeling isolated and possibly overwhelmed by the pressures that we are asked to face at the moment.

Gratitude has been linked with having positive effects on mental health. The Resilience Project has launched an @home resource, with the first focus being on Gratitude. Gratitude is when we turn our brain to focus on things we are grateful for, which in turn can have a positive effect on our mindset. Over the past couple of weeks I have shared some activities from the Resilience Project in relation to gratitude. One of the tasks involved at the end of each day taking some time to talk to your family about the following questions:

- What are three things that went well for you today?***
- Who is someone you feel really grateful for today? Why?***
- What is something you're looking forward to tomorrow?***

Focusing on answering these questions turn our brains to focus on the good things that we have and can appreciate. Answering these three questions can form part of a daily routine, dinner time conversation, a chat before bed, and can have a positive impact on mental health. Sometimes it is the little things that we are most grateful for.

If you are struggling, it is important to reach out and ask for help. Our school Psychologist, Catherine from DBT is schools is still working, and able to take referrals through a mental health plan. She is able to see people either onsite at Officer or via an online platform. Please contact the school if you would like further information in relation to this. Other numbers which may be helpful are:

Parentline – 1300 30 1300 (8am-10pm, 7 days a week)

Relationships Australia – 1300 364 277

Beyond Blue – 1300 224 636

Lifeline – 13 11 14 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Please take care,

Until next time

Belinda Hazzledine

Wellbeing Co-Ordinator

Skye Primary School—Facebook Page & Instagram



Keep up to date with some of the wonderful things your child/ren are doing in their school time on facebook and Instagram—

Facebook—Skye Primary School

& - Parents of Skye Primary

Instagram—Skye Primary School



The Parents of Skye Facebook Page is closed group for parents only.

Please note that our school will delete any comments that are deemed inappropriate for public viewing from the Skye Primary School Face Book page. We look forward to you visiting our page regularly.

Are you Eligible for Camps, Sports & Excursion ??

Camps, Sports & Excursion fund is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the cost of excursions and camps. To be eligible you must hold a health care card, pension or concession card. The card must be valid on 14th April, start of term 2.

If your circumstances have changed please print an application form off from the school website—<https://skyeps.vic.edu.au/parent-info/> then email the form to the school.

If you require further information please email skye.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.