Marayong Heights Public School

Learning from Home:

Information for Families

*(prepared in line with Department of Education procedures)*



*Ensuring we check in with every child, every day so that they*

*know they are known, valued and cared for.*

Marayong Heights Public School will continue with ‘Learning from Home’ for students in Term 2 with a focus on a managed return to school across Term 2.

For the first two weeks of the term, families are encouraged to keep their children at home wherever possible to continue with learning from home. Students who **need** to attend school during this time, will be supervised by a teacher, not in their regular class or necessarily their own class teacher.

From Week 3, all students will be able to attend school one day per week on a nominated day. Students who **need** to attend school on a daily basis will continue to attend.

Students will be able to attend on a day nominated by the school, depending on the starting letter of your child’s last name. Unfortunately, due to the DoE requirements around social distancing, numbers of students in groups and staff/student safety, we are not able to negotiate days that have been allocated.

Please note that students will not necessarily be with their class teacher or their friends on their attendance day, as the size of each group is limited to 10 students. Students will be completing their Learning Grid on their day at school with support from teachers.

We understand that a number of families are also balancing working from home with supporting their children’s learning, for some families that can be quite a challenge at times.

To assist with this, we have tried to build in flexibility with the Learning Grids. If you have any concerns around the work we have provided for your child, please contact your child’s teacher either by ringing the school or sending a message through Seesaw.

**Model of Learning**

Students learning either at home or at school will engage in a single unit of work through a Learning Grid, planned and provided by stage teachers.

The Learning Grid for the following week will be uploaded onto Seesaw and onto the school’s website after 12pm on the previous Friday. For those families who do not have access to the internet or a printer, paper copies for the following week will be available outside the school office between 12pm and 1pm on the Friday.

The table below outlines the recommended time allocations for students participating in learning at school or at home. The time allocations are based on the NSW primary school syllabus requirements.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Early Stage 1 | Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 3 |
| TOTAL  2.5 hours + other | **TOTAL**  2.5 hours + other | **TOTAL**  3 hours + other | **TOTAL**  3 hours + other |
| 45-60 mins  English | 45-60 mins  English | 45-60 mins  English | 45-60 mins  English |
| 30-45 mins  Mathematics | 30-45 mins  Mathematics | 30-45 mins  Mathematics | 30-45 mins  Mathematics |
| 30-60 mins  Other KLAs:  Creative Arts, HSIE, PDHPE, SciTech | 30-60 mins  Other KLAs:  Creative Arts, HSIE, PDHPE, SciTech | 30-60 mins  Other KLAs:  Creative Arts, HSIE, PDHPE, SciTech | 30-60 mins  Other KLAs:  Creative Arts, HSIE, PDHPE, SciTech |
| Other activities:  wellbeing, sport, physical activity | Other activities:  wellbeing, sport, physical activity | Other activities:  wellbeing, sport,  physical activity | Other activities:  wellbeing, sport,  physical activity |

KLA = Key Learning Area

Again, we understand these are challenging times and only ask that families do their best. The health and wellbeing of all families is our key priority and encourage you to aim for a balanced approach to learning at home.

**Communication Platforms**

We will be using **Seesaw** with all students across the school for uploading work and communicating to parents and students. Please make sure your child is using the Seesaw ‘CLASS – The Learning Journal app’ for uploading work. If you do not have the QR code for the Class app, please contact your child’s teacher who will be able to send it to you.

Between 9:00am and 3:00pm, teachers will be monitoring, marking and giving feedback to work uploaded onto Seesaw. Please understand that teachers may be supervising in classrooms so they will not be able to respond instantly.

Please note that any work uploaded outside of 9:00am and 3:00pm will be marked the following day.

Should your child have any questions relating to the Learning Grid, teachers will be able to answer any questions either through Seesaw or you may contact the office and the teacher will return your call when they are next available, between 9:00am and 3:00pm.

We will also be using **Zoom** to keep in touch with, and stay connected to, our students via video-conferencing. The use of this platform has the approval of the Department of Education who has ensured it is a secure educational site, with students only able to access Zoom through their student portal log in. The class teacher will be hosting the meeting and will only be admitting students into the room who have logged in via the student portal.

Each stage has been allocated a 15 minute Zoom check-in time each morning that will allow students to check in with their teacher and classmates. It is up to you as the parent to decide whether your child will participate in these check-ins. We would encourage children to participate, as we believe it is important for student wellbeing to stay connected to school.

Students will be notified of the time of the scheduled meeting, as well as the meeting Id. code and password required to join the check-in, via a message in Seesaw.

Parents and carers may assist their child(ren) in setting up the technology to support video-conferencing; however, they are requested to not join any group/class chats being moderated by the class teacher. No one-on-one chats will be conducted between a student and the teacher. Parents and carers need to ensure that a plain wall or backdrop is provided close behind the student during the video-conference to ensure that distractions are minimised and home details concealed. Please know that at no time will recording of video conferencing be allowed by any user.

Should you require assistance with Zoom, please contact your child’s teacher or the school and we will be happy to help.

For those families who are working offline, teachers will be calling home every second day, to speak with your child - just to check in with them and to see how they are going with their learning. It is important that we have current contact numbers for this to happen, so please contact the office if you need to update your contact details.

**Learning Grid**

The Learning Grid has a range of activities across English, Mathematics and other Key Learning Areas.

First thing every morning, there is a daily check-in activity to be completed by all students. Teachers will upload the activity before 9:00am and this MUST be completed and uploaded onto Seesaw.

There are a number of **‘MUST DO’** activities that must be completed by the end of each week. From Week 3, for some of these ‘MUST DO’ activities, a pre-recorded lesson will be uploaded to Seesaw to explain the activity.

* If you are using Seesaw, these activities need to be uploaded onto Seesaw as they are completed and they will be marked and assessed by the classroom teacher.
* If you are working offline, completed ‘MUST DO’ activities need to be dropped off to the school’s letter box (please make sure your child’s name and class is on the completed work) so that the classroom teacher can mark and assess the work.

There are a number of **‘CAN DO’** activities that are optional and can be completed if time permits.

* These activities can be uploaded onto Seesaw as they are completed or dropped off to the school’s letter box; however, these activities will not be used for assessment purposes.

There are activities that need to be completed across other Key Learning Areas. This semester we are continuing with our Science and Geography units and therefore there are some questions or activities the students will need to complete in these areas.

In addition, we have included STEAM tasks and Creative Arts. The DoE also recommend some Wellbeing tasks are completed each day, which includes some physical activity of you family’s choice, in addition to some mental health tasks, which are listed at the bottom of the grid.

**Attendance**

We encourage parents and carers to send your child to school on the allocated day.

If there are personal circumstances that prevent your child/ren attending school, you will need to contact the school and speak with either the Principal or Deputy Principal.

If you are keeping your child home due to an underlying health condition, please advise the school to ensure that your child is able to continue learning from home.

Students who are participating in learning from home or school will be marked as being present at school. When learning from home, you will need to ensure that work is uploaded onto Seesaw regularly or that work is dropped into the school’s letter box for your child to be marked as present at school.

If your child is unwell, they are not expected to participate in learning and will be marked as being on sick leave pending advice from parents or carers that your child is unwell.

Students who are not at school and are unable to be contacted by the school to determine their whereabouts, will be followed up by using the normal processes and marked as on unapproved leave.

**Supporting Student Learning from Home**

There are a number of ways to support your child whilst they are learning from home. Try to establish a quiet area with access to the internet, where you can supervise and monitor your child’s learning.

Helpful tips include:

* Establish routines and expectations
* Define a space for your child to work in
* Monitor communications from teachers
* Begin and end each day with a check-in
* Take an active role in helping your child process their learning
* Encourage physical activity and/or exercise
* Check in with your child regularly to help them manage stress
* Monitor how much time your child is spending online
* Keep your child social, but set rules around their social media interactions.

Following our Positive Behaviour for Learning expectations, we have created a matrix on the following page to support Learning from Home expectations. Please take some time to explain the expectations to your child so that they understand what is expected of them during this time.

