



# Home Learning Support

Parent Guidelines and Expectations



## **Home Learning Support**

As a result of the COVID 19 global health crisis and a decision by the WA Chief health Officer for our school to be closed, we are prepared for students to learn at home through various initiatives and online platforms.

At Craigie Heights Primary School we understand that in these unprecedented times this may be a challenge for many of our families. We appreciate that to continue learning at home will look and feel different for everyone given individual family circumstances. We are working hard to make this process as simple and as successful as we can. We trust the following information will support all families make the best decisions for their family as we work together through this time.

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### **What is Home Learning?**

We are planning to provide a continuation of learning from home in the event that our school is closed. Teachers are ready to go with a combination of online learning and work 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 at this time and as such 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.

### **How will it work?**

Teachers will create plans ready for families to access through Connect, our school home/class communication platform. The plan provides sufficient work and activities that are a combination of revision and consolidation. Teachers will continue to play the role as the instructional experts, students are expected to engage in the teaching and learning program that best suits the circumstances of the family. To achieve this, our teachers will be in regular contact with their students. Parents are not expected to take the place of teachers. We appreciate that families have varying circumstances and therefore we understand issues that impact on engaging in the learning program.



## Class Plans

The home 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
- Require students to read every day
- Require students to write every day
- Require students to complete maths fluency and number foundation 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 through the day, the order and time it is completed is to be considered within individual family circumstances
- Be posted by the class teacher via Connect

We have deliberately not provided learning times or a timetable for the day. Each family is different, each child is different and therefore the circumstances to engage in and complete the learning tasks will be different. 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 at times. 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

We will prioritise staying connected with our families and importantly our students. We know many of our students want to hear from their teacher, and parents would like to have some questions answered along the way. Our communication expectations will be:

- Connect, email, phone and website
- Parents to use Connect or email to ask the teacher any questions or seek support. **This is to be done before 9.00am each day.** Teachers will respond to any query between 9.00am-3.00pm each day via phone, email or Connect
- Teachers will create a daily schedule where they connect with each child in their class once per week via phone or video conference
- Teachers will post messages to students via Connect, and or WebEx and for some video conferencing and lessons
- Students will submit the teacher 'must do' identified tasks through Connect to their teacher for feedback
- Teachers will provide feedback to students on the work submitted. Teachers in some instances will negotiate the methods of providing feedback based on the circumstances of families.

## How can families make continuation of learning be successful?

Teaching and learning during a pandemic are of importance, but health, safety and wellbeing we believe must come first at all times. We will operate with the understanding of 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, calmness and considering individual family circumstances, the following general tips for parents will provide children with a sense of belonging to school and feeling of safety.

- 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 the independent learning skills to complete the allocated learning tasks
- Pack up and tidy away the learning zone at the end of each day's lessons. Children can manage this task and prepare for the next day
- Schedule regular breaks and play opportunities. Have 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 and giving immediate feedback to reassure them when you are able
- Check your child's work but leave any incorrect work, showing with corrected attempts underneath as this informs the class teacher's understanding about the processes your child is using
- If you have more than one child, let them work together with the elder sibling taking on the role as a peer support. They can read instructions, answer any queries and provide guidance
- Discuss teacher feedback with your child when it is given
- Be flexible and adaptable during the day; be prepared for sickness, tiredness, interruptions planned or unplanned
- Develop a schedule for the day to suit your family needs and situation
- Encourage and look for learning beyond the weekly plan that involves cooking, playing, outdoor activities and chores around the house

## Our Values and Expectations of Home Learning

**Keep it simple-** We are faced with an unprecedented crisis. Whilst education is open, we must all understand that education will look, sound and feel very different to the classroom teaching and learning program. We are here to support all families. We are making decisions and planning accordingly to continue learning that prioritises the safety and health and wellbeing of staff, students and parents. We aim to keep things simple for every family to access and follow home learning.

**Respect-** We value a team approach. We are all in this together and therefore the importance of positive relationships between school and home and teachers and families has never been so important. We want our community to continue to feel a sense of belonging to our school and recognise we are all doing the best we can under the circumstances.

**Responsible-** We want to ensure that teachers, students and parents/carers have a clear understanding of the expectations of home learning. Our focus is for everyone to know they have a role to play in students learning and how this can be successful for each teacher, student and family. We will learn and improve as we go.

**Safe-** Ultimately we want all families to continue to feel supported and a sense of belonging to our school and community. We want everyone to take responsibility for supporting each other and help out those that may need a little more support. We can achieve our TEAM APPROACH if we be kind, be patient and be constructive in feedback as we learn and grow along the journey.

**Achiever-** In times of crisis comes opportunity. We are looking at new and innovative ways we can deliver education to our families. This is a time for growing and opportunity. We will make mistakes, find issues and

problems to solve but we see this as progress and learning to achieve excellence. It may not be perfect but we aim to support everyone's circumstances and needs.

### Family routine

We have deliberately not planned a day's schedule dictated by times, as we know that each family has different considerations when implementing the home learning program. We do, however, recommend that families consider their circumstances and plan a routine that children do need and require. This will look different in all families and may not be the standard 9.00am – 3.00pm schedule, this doesn't have to be the case. Families should create a routine that works for them and their child. Be flexible, be adaptable, be creative and don't stress if you can't complete the work!

### Feedback to school

We value and encourage families to stay connected through the period of Home Learning. Staff will prioritise communication with families and children via Connect, email and Webex, an online video conferencing tool. We ask families to follow the communicating to teachers' expectation of **all queries or issues be addressed to the class teacher via Connect or email before 9.00am each day**. Teachers will be scheduling answering of questions or providing support to families between 9.00am-3.00pm daily. Teachers will also schedule a once a week check in with each child to stay connected and provide feedback to students. We are very happy to hear feedback on the development of Home Learning so we can evolve our approach as we learn more from families and teachers. A team approach sees everyone playing an important role.

### Student and Family Wellbeing

We expect our children to have many questions and concerns at this time. We believe the priority for all of our school community is our individual health and wellbeing. We are here to continue to offer this important support to students and families. Please make contact and reach out to us when you need support by email on [CraigieHeights.PS@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:CraigieHeights.PS@education.wa.edu.au)

Teachers can also be contacted through their individual email address or the school email above where parents/carers wish to discuss any concerns about their child.

We recommend the following services for families where emergency situations require expert health support and advice.

Child and Adolescent Health Services Urgent Mental Health Support – 1800 048 636

Kids Helpline- 1800 551 800

Lifeline- 13 11 44

Beyond Blue- 1300 224 636

## Home Learning Protocols

This document has been linked to our four key values of RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, ACHIEVER and SAFE. It provides a guide on how we can implement our TEAM APPROACH to home learning. We all have role to play. How families develop a manageable day and routines will look different in every home. The access to technology will be different, what matters is what works for your family. Our expectation is that ALL children feel safe and supported at this time.

Students	Parents	Staff
<b>RESPECT</b>		
Provide feedback on how you are feeling regularly to your teachers via Connect.	Communicate with teachers through Connect or email.	Provide regular communication regarding learning through Connect.
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, and 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.
Make time for some fun and play	Make time for some fun and play	It's ok if families can't complete all the activities planned
<b>RESPONSIBLE</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 Connect.
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.
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>SAFE</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 (9.00am – 3.00pm).
Stay calm, if you are unsure about anything then just ask.	Set good practices around online screen time.	Year level learning will be consistent and appropriate for home completion.
<b>ACHIEVER</b>		
Be kind to yourself and others.	Be kind to yourself and others.	Be kind to yourself and others.
Ask for help.	Ask for help.	Have weekly check-ins with all families through phone calls
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.

## Share with us- Celebrate learning!

We would love to see children's learning from home. We encourage parents to email us at school on [CraigieHeights.PS@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:CraigieHeights.PS@education.wa.edu.au). 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 the learning that is occurring and motivate your child to want to engage in teaching and 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.

Devote a wall to learning at home with pictures, quotes and successes achieved. Make this an engaging task, kids love being creative and will relish the opportunity to create a display, just like their classroom at school. Have fun with the space children learn in and share with us so we can stay connected.

### Key things for parents to remember

We don't expect you to be the teacher, do what you can and go easy on yourself and your child. The priority at this time is your family's health and wellbeing.

We will communicate regularly with you through Connect, phone and email. **You can contact your teacher through via email or Connect by 9.00am each day.** Teachers will respond during school hours 9.00am-3.00pm.

Reach out to other families, check in with them to see that everyone is ok!

We can provide print materials for any family that does not have access to digital technology.

Keep up to date with the daily WA Government announcements to ensure you are aware of latest advice and guidelines.

One of the first activities you might like to do with your child is to plan and then create your home learning environment.

An environment in which your child feels comfortable and able to focus on learning will work best.

You may have a regular place for your child to do their homework under normal circumstances, but this space may not be suitable for working in for an extended period of time.

A space/location for extended learning is best if it's a public/family space, and preferably not in a bedroom. It should be a place that can be quiet at times and have a strong wireless internet signal, if possible.

Above all, it should be a space where you or another adult is able to monitor your child's learning as much as possible.

Set up rules together (rewards and consequences)

If you both understand and agree to reasonable behavioural expectations and the consequences of either meeting them or breaking them, life will be much easier for the whole family.

Quiet times for both parents/carers and students are important!

1. Create time in the day for quiet/mindful reflection
2. Practise breathing techniques
3. Practice meditation using mindfulness apps
4. Play and listen to music
5. Play board or card games together
6. Stop. Breath. Be kind, patient and thankful. Repeat!

### What is learning through 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.

When children are young they play and learn in the home, making parents and caregivers their first teachers. Families can support children's learning and development by creating opportunities for play in the home.

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 can use. Cooking is also a great way to play and learn at the same time. Feel free to get creative!

### Support for our children during this time.

We are a phone call or an email away from being there for you the best way we can.

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.

Below are some resources available to support all children and young people with their wellbeing.

#### World Health Organization

The World Health Organization has developed a flyer on [helping children cope with stress during the COVID-19 outbreak.](#)

#### Beyond Blue

When children and young people [learn to self-manage their emotions](#), they feel more confident, capable and in control. Helping children and young people manage their emotions is important for fostering positive mental health and wellbeing.

#### Student Wellbeing Hub

Provides information and resources for students to keep [healthy, happy and get the most out of school](#)

## Reach out

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

## Kids Helpline

Provide [emotional support](#) to children and young people

## Return to school

Health WA will advise us when students and staff can return to school. We will contact our school community by Connect, email, SMS and Instagram immediately advising of the return date. The school would have undergone a deep cleaning process before staff and students return to school.

### School contact details

PH- 6206 2200

Email- [CraigieHeights.PS@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:CraigieHeights.PS@education.wa.edu.au)