



Principal's Letter

Once again, we are faced with extended lockdowns where Remote and Flexible Learning continues for Metropolitan Melbourne until 2 September.

I understand that this is an incredibly difficult time for each of our families and for all our students as your routines are disrupted and many of the things that bring you joy have been taken away.

Can I encourage each of you to focus on the things that do bring joy and that you have control over during this time? Structure, routine, and predictability is incredibly important for our children to feel safe and secure, particularly in this disruptive time. The more you can stick to routines, the better. Try to show them to your child in a visual way with pictures in a timetable or calendar. Chat to your child's teacher if you need more ideas with this.

Again, I'm so proud of the work that our school community has done during this time. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank the parents, for all the support we've had from you in helping your child continue to learn from home.

If you do have any suggestions or ideas as to how we could improve remote and flexible learning, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher to talk to them, or email furlong.park.ds@education.vic.gov.au as we're always looking at ways to improve things. Also, if you have any words of encouragement, a thank you, or a positive comment you'd like to pass on, please take two minutes to send this email as well. It's amazing how much the parents' positive feedback can boost our staff and help them to keep on going as well!

Remember the COVID website for parents is: coronavirus.vic.gov.au/parents-carers-and-guardians

If you need support with your mental health during this time, please remember there are many supports available and are listed here:

- **Beyond Blue Phone: 1800 512 348**
A dedicated service for those feeling anxious, stressed, depressed or need assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.
[Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service](#)

Term Dates 2021

Term 3 – 12 July – 17 September

Term 4 – 4 October – 17 December

Upcoming Events 2021

Wednesday 1 September & Thursday 2 September – SSG Meetings via WebEx

Friday 10 September – School Photo Day

Friday 17 September – 2pm finish, last day of term

Monday 1 November – School Closed for Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 2 November – School Closed for Melbourne Cup Day

Thursday 18 November – Music Concert 6:30pm

Tuesday 30 November – School SSGs

Wednesday 1 December – Early Education Program SSGs

Tuesday 14 December – Graduation night

Thursday 16 December – 2pm Finish and End of Year Party

Friday 17 December – Clean up day

- **Carers Victoria**
Represents and provides support for carers in Victoria. carersvictoria.org.au
- **Disability Information Helpline**
Phone: 1800 643 787
Access to information and referrals for people who need help because of COVID-19, including access to counselling (available Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm).
- **Eating Disorders Victoria**
In response to COVID-19, Eating Disorders Victoria has implemented a new Wellbeing Program to assist people living with eating disorders and their support people during these challenging times.
eatingdisorders.org.au



Principal's Letter (Cont.)

- **HeadtoHelp Phone:** 1800 595 212
Telephone advice from trained professionals and, if needed, connection to the best support or service for the caller (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm). HeadtoHelp also provides online resources for callers and healthcare professionals. headtohelp.org.au
- **Lifeline Australia:** Phone: 13 11 14
A crisis support service offering short term support at any time for people who are having difficulty coping or staying safe. lifeline.org.au
- **PANDA Phone:** 1300 726 306
Support for individuals and families to recover from perinatal anxiety and depression. PANDA's National Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Helpline (Monday to Friday, 9am to 7.30pm) or online. panda.org.au
- **Smiling Mind**
Smiling Mind's digital care packs provide tools and resources for parents, carers and teachers to support positive mental health for the children in their care. smilingmind.com.au
- **TANDEM carers**
Represents organisations and individuals who care for people living with mental illness. tandemcarers.org.au

Warm regards,

Lee Bullock
Principal

Music Concert

The 2021 Music concert has been moved to Thursday
18th November at 6:30pm.

Located in the Gym at Sunshine College North Campus,
Northumberland Road, Sunshine North.

Full details of the concert will be provided closer to the event date. If Covid restrictions do not allow for this to go ahead, we will be considering an online event as we did last year.



Prep Bags

At the beginning of the school year, the Department of Education and Training provided every Prep student attending a Victorian government school with a red Prep bag.

The Prep bags contained 14 items, including children's storybooks, flyers, stickers, and stationery items, all designed to help Prep students and their parents and carers thrive from the start of Term 1.

The Department is now inviting families of current Prep students to participate in a short survey, closing **Sunday 29 August.**

Feedback will help inform what Prep students and their parents and carers like about the Prep bags and what can be improved in 2022.

To have your say, complete the survey through [SurveyMonkey](https://www.surveymonkey.com).

The survey takes about five to ten minutes to complete.

For more information on this year's Prep bags, refer to the [Prep Bags 2021 web page](#) on the Department's website.



EVERYDAY MATHS – OUTDOORS

We hope you enjoyed trying out some of the ideas posted in the last newsletter - 'Everyday Maths Around the House'. The Victorian Government provides online resources for parents on their FUSE website including animations to help engage young children in conversations about mathematics. They are captioned and are very visual.

This week's video explores how families can explore Maths in the outdoors such as counting steps, finding numbers and shapes, and mapping your path.

[Everyday Maths - Outdoors - FUSE - Department of Education & Training](#)

Pip Risby, Mathematics Leader





Ambulance Memberships

In case of any accidents/health emergencies, Ambulance Victoria Memberships would be a good consideration for families as the cost per ambulance callout is significantly reduced or there is no fee at all.

As stated on the [Ambulance Victoria website](#), cover can start from \$48.35 for singles and \$96.70 for families per year.

The cost of one emergency road transport is in excess of \$1,200 that may not be covered by the school if your child was to be transported to hospital via ambulance.

We highly encourage families to visit the Victorian Ambulance website to see further details regarding membership.

If you do not have Ambulance cover membership, Under the State Concession Scheme, eligible Victorian's holding certain concession cards receive free clinically necessary ambulance coverage throughout Australia. In all cases, transport is provided to the nearest and most appropriate medical facility.

For the purpose of ambulance transport, the Concession classification includes:

- a person holding a current Victorian Pensioner Concession Card (includes dependent children listed on the card but not spouses)
- a current Health Care Card holder and their dependents including spouses listed on the card (does not include Health Care Card for carer allowance and foster care issued in the name of the child)
- a child holding a current Child Disability Health Care Card or Foster Child Health Care Card, but not their guardians/families listed on the card

- a child under a Family reunification, Care by Secretary or Long-term care order including children on interim accommodation orders
- a person who is subject to an order under the Mental Health Act 2014, Sentencing Act 1991, or Crimes (Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried) Act 1997 requiring them to be compulsorily assessed or treated in a designated mental health service. This includes compulsory, security and forensic patients.
- asylum seekers who are clients of one of the 16 nominated agencies for asylum seeker support found here [Ambulance Transport Payment Guidelines](#)

SSG Meetings

We will be holding Student Support Group meetings (SSGs) in September on the following dates for School and EEP families between 3:30-4:45pm:

- **Wednesday 1st September**
- **Thursday 2nd September**

This is an opportunity for you to have a brief 15-minute check in with your child's teacher to receive an update about their progress.

SSGs will take place remotely via WebEx. Please select a suitable booking time to meet with your child's teacher by clicking/tapping on the green shaded notification titled **Parent Student Teacher Conference on your Compass app**.

The URL link to meet with the teacher using WebEx will be posted on Compass in the days prior to the SSG meetings. You do not need to download the app or install any software. You will only require a device with internet connection and simply need to click on the link provided.

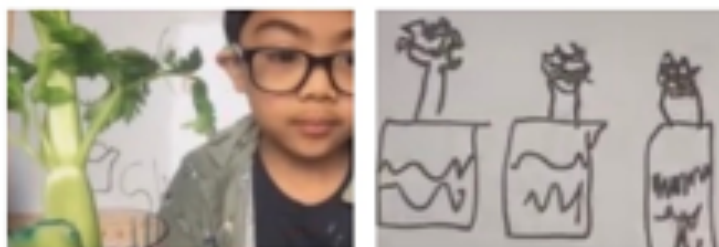
All parents are expected to attend their child's SSG meeting each term and be on time for the scheduled meeting. There is a tremendous amount of time and resourcing required to enable these meetings to take place and we appreciate your support.

For further information or to seek assistance with your booking please contact our school office on either 9312 3244 or furlong.park.ds@education.vic.gov.au



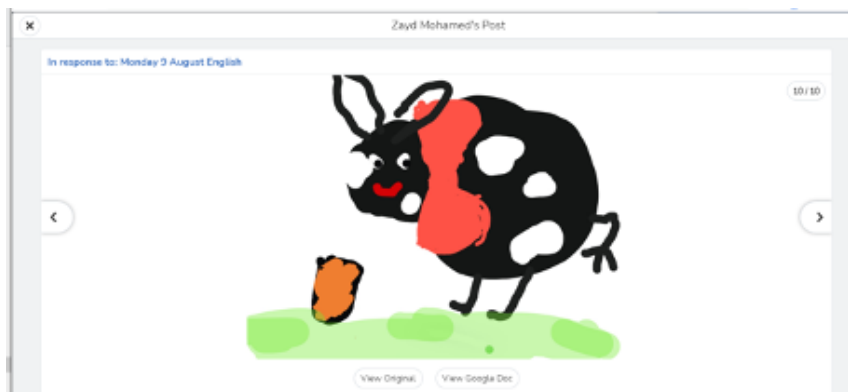
GOOD NEWS STORIES

Room 8



Room 2

Throughout Remote Learning 6.0 students in Room 2 have been extremely focused and successful. Thank you to families for supporting your students. We did a fun activity creating Silly Sentences based on the words we have been learning through the 'Fingerspelling Our Way to Reading' program. Students were challenged to create a silly sentence using as many of the known words as possible. They were then asked to draw what the sentence is about. Congratulations to Zayd for using three of the words and creating a beautiful picture too.





How we communicate at Furlong Park!

Have you ever been confused about the best way to get information or communicate with the staff at Furlong Park? We've created an easy 'How to' guide. If you have any feedback about this, please don't hesitate to contact us at furlong.park.ds@education.vic.gov.au

How we communicate at Furlong Park

	 Red bag and Communication diary	 Seesaw	 Compass	 Newsletter	 Website	 Email	 School Phone, FaceTime, National Relay Service	 Student Support Group meetings via WebEx or face-to-face
Showcasing student learning	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Reporting student progress and achievement	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Recording student attendance	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Events and News	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Administrative announcements	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
School policies, general school information	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Specific learning/behaviour updates	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓

KEY:  Preferred method of communicating  Secondary form of communicating  Not used



eSafetyparents

Screen time for your child – 7 tips

There is a lot of conflicting advice and emerging research around screen time. But, the right amount of screen time can depend on a range of factors like your child's age and maturity, the kind of content they are consuming, their learning needs and your family routine. It can be easy to focus only on the clock and how long your child is spending in front of the screen, but the quality and nature of what they are doing online, and your involvement are just as important.

Consider your child's screen use in the context of their overall health and wellbeing – for example, is online time getting in the way of their sleep and exercise? Is it impacting on their face-to-face connections with family and friends? The answers to these questions will guide you and help strike the right balance of online and offline activities for your child.



1. Be involved

Sharing screen time and online activities like gaming with your child helps you gauge the appropriateness of what they are doing and manage potential risks. It's also a great way to start conversations with your child about their online experiences.



2. Work with your child to set boundaries for screen use

If you decide that setting screen time limits is right for you and your child, discuss these new rules with your child. Older children are more likely to cooperate if they have been part of the decision-making process. Colourful pictures or charts of daily limits and other important activities is a fun way to get younger children on board.



3. Be clear about the consequences of not switching off

Part of our role as parents is to set clear limitations and boundaries. The same applies to technology limitations so, being clear and consistent about the consequences for your child if they do not stick to these rules is paramount. The [Raising Children Network](#) provides some useful tools and advice.



Furlong Park School for Deaf Children

13 - 17
SEPTEMBER

(Last week of term)

BOOK WEEK and NATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE

A week celebrating the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book Week, and the National Week of Deaf People!



MONDAY 13/9

- DRESS UP PARADE -
Come to school dressed as
your favourite character
from a book!

We will have a parade in
the morning to see
everyone's costumes!

TUESDAY 14/9

- BRIMBANK STORY TIME -
Special guests from
Brimbank Libraries will
visit to share some
wonderful
story books.



FRIDAY 17/9

- SCAVENGER HUNT -
Students will search for
QR codes around the
school with surprise videos!



WEDNESDAY 15/9

- AUTHOR EVENT -
A special event focused on an
award winning Deaf author
and artist!
Further details to come...

THURSDAY 16/9

- PYJAMA DAY & ACTIVITY DAY -
Staff and students will be invited to wear pyjamas
to school to celebrate our 'Read every night' movement.
Activities will focus on Book Week and the Deaf Community.

