**Snells Beach School**

**Home Learning Support Information 2020**

Kia ora Whanau,

These are unprecedented times. It feels like the pandemic situation accelerated hugely in some capacities, and not fast enough in others. Following the Prime Minister’s official announcement today, **the school will now be closed from tomorrow (Tuesday 23rd March).** The teachers will be meeting first thing tomorrow morning, to finalise our Home Learning planning – preparation has been in place for this for some time now. This flyer is designed to give you information to start planning also – home learning is a partnership.

**What will home learning look like?**

Home learning will look very different in every house. Many factors influence this – parental philosophy, whether parents are working at home or still travelling to work, anxieties about leaving the house, and ultimately Government restrictions on the level of lock down. In terms of learning, one of our main concerns here at school, is that home learning is reflective of what we know to be effective. Here at SBS, we do NOT expect children to be sitting still in one place for 6 hours a day, working digitally or on worksheets. Their days should include a mix of academic time, creative time, physical time, quiet/reflection time, social time and time to manage responsibilities. This is how a school day operates, and this is a balance that we need to keep in the homes. It should also be noted that the balance of academic work in a day would vary between a New Entrant and a Senior School students, but even more so between a primary student and a high school student sitting NCEA, etc.

**What support is, and will be provided?**

We will be providing digital support via our website and anticipate this page going live tomorrow (Tuesday). Parents will be able to select from resources and ideas provided to support learning in the home. Teachers will provide more detailed and specific support, tailored to individual classes, and regular daily updates. This support will focus on academic learning, but also prompts for the other time slots in the day.

We will be providing very little in terms of printed/paper resources, except for those who have indicated in last week’s survey that they do not have digital access at home. Worksheets are simply not realistic. They take a short time to complete, many would be needed in a day, x 300 kids, etc. Support will be distributed mainly via email – please ensure that we have your correct address.

**A suggested daily timetable:**

To help bring some sense of routine and normality, we suggest that you develop a timetable with your children, for your home. I have provided an example below, with ideas. These may change with time if restrictions in movement increase, but we feel it is important to emphasise that home learning should NOT result in children staying inside all day. Health experts are reinforcing the need to get out, go for walks, kick a ball around, but simply to keep a distance from others you may encounter when doing so.

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| **Example Daily Routine (to be adapted depending on age of child)** | | |
| Before 9:00am | Usual morning routine | Eat breakfast, make the bed etc…… |
| 9:00 – 10:00 | Activity time | Walk the dog, Ride bikes, Trampoline, Yoga, Basketball shots etc, rock pool exploring etc |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | Academic time | Activities chosen from supplied resources. Or, try for a non-digital slot – Sudoku books, Letter Writing, Reading, Journal Writing etc. |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | Creative time | Lego construction, crafting, drawing, play music, sing, cook or bake, board games etc |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Lunch |  |
| 12:30 | Responsibility time | Tidy kitchen after lunch. Spray and wipe all surfaces, door handles, light switches and desk tops. Organise recycling, water garden etc (these are all jobs currently already done at school) |
| 1:00 | Quiet time | Reading, Puzzles, etc |
| 1:30 | Academic time | Activities chosen from school or own resources. This could be a digital slot. Google Classroom activities (seniors), Kodable, iPad educational games (times tables etc), Maths Prodigy, Educational viewing |
| 2:30 | Social time | Ring friends and family, skype, zoom, WhatsApp, text, message……..or write a good old fashioned letter! Don’t feel isolated! |
| 3:00 | Activity time | Afternoon fresh air. Ride next to a parent while they walk/run, climb trees, play outside. |
| 4:00 | Usual afternoon activities | Free play |
| 5:00 | Dinner prep, showers etc |  |
| 6:00 | Dinner |  |
| 6:30 | Family time |  |
| 7:30 | Bed time |  |
| 8:30 | Bed time | For all the kids who followed the daily schedule and didn’t fight! |

**What should whanau consider organising?**

* paper for drawing, art, writing etc (photocopy paper $6 for 500 sheets at the Warehouse)
* crayons, coloured pencils, paints etc
* scissors and glue or Sellotape
* left over newspapers or advertising mailers for paper mache etc
* stock piling boxes and recycling for craft and construction creative play
* digging out your old Edmonds Cook Book, or collecting some simple recipes
* Downloading and setting up Libby, the Auckland Libraries online App
* Download and setup Skype, Zoom, What’s App or other means of keeping in touch
* Checking out family friendly podcasts, such as “The Kids’ Show” on BFM. Hosted by Lee, the 95bFM Kids’ Show is a place where children get to share their thoughts, interests and talents live on the radio. Running since forever ago, the Kids’ Show features games and competitions, stories, songs and lots of laughter as well as plain old conversation. It’s a happy community of children and families who call up every week to chat and participate.

**What about reading?**

With libraries closed, reading is a tough one because, as we know, kids churn through books! We will provide a list of online resources you can use, but we have 3 ideas you should consider:

* Audio books. These are GREAT. We will post some links to these, but they are also available through the Auckland Libraries App, through Apps like Audible and for younger students on Youtube. Playing an audio book is a great idea during quiet time, or creative time
* Research shows that, in terms of a child’s reading development, reading TO a child is as beneficial (& in some cases more) as them reading themselves. One large book that you read to a child will last a long time, and because you are reading with your child, you can have rich conversations about words and concepts in the book. Teachers can attest that it can take about a term to read Harry Potter, or a David Walliams, etc to a class, so you will have plenty of material to keep you going with just one book. And let’s be honest – it’s a wonderful opportunity to cuddle up and have some nice bonding time too. Start swapping bigger books across families.

**How will I be updated on Home Learning? Who will be my contact?**

Teachers will be directly contacting their classes daily, predominantly via email. We would encourage students to share what they are doing with their classmates via photos or typing an email by “replying to all”.

However, given the nature of this pandemic, it is likely that teachers may also become unwell, as well as their dependents and family members. For this reason, teachers have been asked to buddy up with another teacher at their year level, and to co-plan home learning activities. Alongside this, we will also update general activities and ideas on the school website under “Pandemic Home Learning”.

If you find you are not receiving emails, all teacher emails are available on the school website, so please contact us.

**How do I manage anxiety about the current situation in myself and/or my children?**

Most importantly, stay connected to real people via means other than social media which, currently, can be very stress inducing, and keep physically active.

* After that, we strongly encourage you to explore The Smiling Mind App, available through App Store or Google Play. This app is FREE – clinically based and developed by psychologists, it has been rolled out across Australian Schools. Other Apps cost, and are not usually age appropriate for children. Most importantly, they have updated the Smiling Mind App with resources specific to the current pandemic situation. We really recommend you check it out!
* If you do Facebook, we recommend you follow “The Tough Stuff”, hosted by one of our own parents, Kylie Ryan. Kylie, the founder of The Tough Stuff, has over 20 years experience working in both public and private sectors, specialising in mental health , sexuality and bullying and harassment prevention. She will be posting daily updates, on her Facebook page. Kylie speaks in plain English, and approaches it from a parent’s point of view.