



Truth, Pride & Friendship

Riverside Primary School

Learning at Home Information for Parents

As a result of the COVID 19 global pandemic, social distancing advice and directives from our Government, all schools are now preparing for students to learn at home through various platforms and mediums.

At Riverside Primary School we understand that in these unprecedented times this may be a challenge for many of our families. We are working hard to make this process as simple and as helpful as possible. So, here is some information to help you get started.

How will learning at home work?

- Learning at home (phase two) will start if the government gives a directive to do so. Our learning modules are ready for the start of Term Two (2) April 28. Until then please access our interim 'Learning at Home' package (phase one) on our website.
- There will be (10) ten x weekly modules of work (phase two) that will be completed by each K-6 student during Term Two.
- **The modules will be published on Connect**, the online learning platform, each Monday morning and will be arranged into days of the week/dates. The work for each day will be under the tab for that day.
- Support materials for the parents and students will be provided.
- The modules will be loaded onto Connect at the start of each week.
- **For those families who require a printed copy these will be available at the start of each school week.** The logistics of this will be dependent on the government social distance requirements at the time. Parents/Carers who require a printed package will be notified of how this will be delivered by SMS.
- The modules will contain sufficient work for five days each week for P-6 students, and two days each week for Kindergarten students.
- Lessons are flexible and we have suggested daily time allocations. Parents can modify the programs to meet the needs of their individual children.
- Additional supplementary lessons are also provided through the Department of Education's learning at home portal. This will be available throughout the Term.
- **Your teacher will call/email each student once a week and ask them how they are progressing with their learning.** Students who are able to can submit work each week via Seesaw, Connect or email. This will include a literacy, wellbeing and maths activity. **Your child's classroom teacher will let you know the best way to do this.**
- Teachers will provide encouraging comments and feedback for the pieces of work submitted, but work will not be assessed in the traditional way.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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Learning takes place at home using the resources that are published on Connect each week. Parents, teachers and students will communicate through email, Connect and when required, over the telephone.

If your child's teacher calls and you are unavailable they will leave a message, PLEASE DO NOT call the school, the teacher has recorded this and WILL call you again. Please understand that 100 incoming phone calls will jam our phone system. The teacher will call back to speak to you.

Teachers will inform parents of a communication window (two hours per day) where they will respond to questions and queries they receive. This will occur via their usual class communication platforms.

Module Content

Each week the learning at home module will:

- contain options for both;
 - activities that require connectivity to the internet and
 - activities that do not require connectivity and may be completed without technology.
- Enable students to work at home with limited resources/basic technology resources.
- Include a mix of new curriculum not yet covered, as well as revision activities of content already covered.
- Indicate which activities are new curriculum (have not done it before) and what activities are revision.
- Require students to read every day.
- Require students to write every day.
- Require students to complete maths fluency activities each day.
- Include examples of suggested timetable/time frames with each year level.
- Allocate a priority to each activity:
 - Must do: English and Maths plus a Wellbeing activity.
 - Can do: Additional activities that can be completed if able.

If you require additional activities, you may also access the content of year level modules above or below your child's year level on the Department of Education Learning at Home portal.

Suggested daily time allocations for parents / students

- Kindy 45 minutes throughout the day
- Pre-Primary 1 hour throughout the day
- Year 1 2 hours throughout the day
- Year 2 2 hours throughout the day including specialist activity.
- Year 3 2 hours plus a specialist activity
- Year 4 3 hours plus a specialist activity
- Year 5 3 hours plus a specialist activity
- Year 6 3 hours plus specialist activity

We suggest you take regular breaks throughout the learning sessions. You should ***time the learning sessions around the home routines***. For some families a morning learning time will suit. For others the afternoons will be better.

Achieving success with 'Learning at home'

Learning at home is dependent on close communication between the teacher, student and parent. Parents work with their child to organise and complete school work.

Parents have a vital role and are the link between the class teacher and the student. Their main role is to guide, encourage and support their child in developing independent learning skills and completing set tasks on time. **Deliberately we have organised the learning to allow the parent to provide support for their child and not have to be the teacher.**

Children learn best when they have a secure and positive learning environment. Parents should encourage children to:

- develop good study habits and to be responsible for their own learning
- organise module materials and equipment
- complete work in the allocated time
- prepare for each day's lesson.

It is important that the parent models this behaviour. Parents should feel free to mark, comment and give feedback on their child's schoolwork as it is completed. Teachers value the participation of parents.

Communication is a two-way process and we encourage parents to:

- contact teachers early if you, or your child, experiences difficulties
- complete feedback sheets and surveys
- write positive and constructive comments on student work
- communicate through email, Connect or the class communication platform i.e. Seesaw as first contact points

Feedback and Check In

Teachers will clearly indicate three (3) activities per week that students will need to submit to the teacher to provide encouraging, feedback back to students. This should occur through Connect, Seesaw or email. Teachers will negotiate the methods of providing feedback based on the technology available in different homes and for some families this will be via a telephone call to discuss the activity with the child.

How can we complete all the required activities?

It may sometimes be a challenge to complete all the activities.

- A regular timetable and study routine is recommended as it creates a stable environment in which your child can develop self-reliance and independence.
- Develop the timetable to suit your situation. Some parents prefer to start school early and finish early, while others prefer the morning free and the children work later in the day.
- Vary the curriculum during the day including regular times for activities such as physical education and fitness, work modules and silent reading.

How can I support my child when learning at home?

Parents can support student learning in different ways.

- **Be positive and enthusiastic, and take interest in your child's work.** Discuss the work with your child during the study time so that he/she receives immediate feedback or extra assistance if needed.
- Be consistent. Most children look for order, firmness and fairness.
- Encourage learning beyond the classroom. – Playing, cooking, and outdoor activities.

- If you have more than one child allow them to work together. For example, an older child could conference a writing task with a younger child, or read to a younger child.
- Check your child's work and go through any incorrect work with them. It is important to leave any incorrect work, showing with corrected attempts underneath because this informs the class teacher's understanding about the processes your child is using.
- When you receive teacher feedback discuss this with your child.
- There will be times when you need to be flexible. Your child may be ill or you may be busy with other demands. Speak to the teachers about your child's workload.
- Children with learning difficulties or special needs may need a modified learning program developed for them. Your classroom teacher is your first port of call and they will work with your child's Special Needs Assistant to best support your child. Your child's education assistant from school will prove to be a wealth of knowledge in this area.

Acknowledgments

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- RPS staff.
- RPS parents and carers
- Department of Education School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE).

Further Advice for Parents

We will alert you via our website, SMS or Connect of any updates and changes to the 'Learning at Home' arrangements as they occur.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher to ask for clarity or help.

Extra resources will be posted on the Online Learning Tab on the Riverside Web Site if parents would like to make use of these during the school holidays, or as extra learning activities.

We have even placed links to support agencies in Mandurah if your family needs to access any help during this health crisis. This may include foodbank, welfare and support agencies, Police and community support.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Riverside families a safe and happy holiday. We understand that there are many uncertainties at this time but as a community, we are here to help you and all our lovely staff meet these challenges. Please let us know if we can help in any way and if we are unable to assist directly, we will endeavour to arrange the assistance you need.

Keep well, stay safe and healthy and enjoy the time with your beautiful children and families.

Yours sincerely,

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