



# RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

3rd April 2020

Good Morning Parents, Carers and Families,

I trust that this finds you all happy and well and enjoying the extra time with your families and children.

It is important to remember at this difficult time, not just in Mandurah but across the state and the world as well, that **now more than ever we need to support, care for and show kindness to first and foremost our families, and also our wider group of friends and neighbours.**

**This virus pandemic knows no boundaries and the social distancing that we do now will help to keep us, our families and our friends all safer and healthier for longer.**

With the Dept. of Education now bringing the April School Holidays one week earlier, from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April, you may still want to use our Riverside Primary Online Learning Resources information loaded up on our school website. There are many interesting learning activities there that the kids can complete and have fun with even during the holidays and I have attached a list of fun things for families to do at home that are free and easy to set up during this time. I know my family are already doing some of these at home.

**It is anticipated that the start of Term 2 will begin with a similar set of rules for schools as what we are currently working in, although, as we know in this Pandemic, the situation may change.** That would mean, if it was to happen this way, that students would work from home on a "Riverside Learning From Home Package", either online or a paper workbook, with some access to supervision still being given for students whose parents work and are unable to supervise them at home.

During these next two weeks all our school staff will continue to be at school, working on designing and creating both the online digital work for each week, and also printing out each lesson and activity in the form of a paper and pen work package. The staff have been fantastic as they have designed the work your children would be doing if they were still at school, and in a way that your children can work on at home with some help from their family members, but not needing 'home teaching'.

The teachers are working hard to make it fun, interesting and still valuable. **No parent or carer is expected to have to 'teach' their child, but instead are able to 'support and enjoy the learning with them'**. This means that while the learning may appear similar to classroom lessons, will be deliberately different so the child can join in the learning without having a teacher present. This is an important difference – **we don't expect families to have to teach at home, but the student is to join in the 'Learning From Home'**.

**We are checking in with every family at the moment to check phone numbers and email addresses so that we can send an invitation to join a program called "CONNECT"**. This will join up every student to the program and to their classroom teacher and mean that students and teachers can email each other work, questions and allow 'check in' for learning.

Please make sure you join the CONNECT invitation when it is sent to you, to ensure you receive all the Learning From Home information and the dates next term to pick up the work packages.

I will contact you during the holidays to explain the process to collect the work packages when we have more information on how Term 2 will start.

Stay well, be kind, enjoy your beautiful children and keep safe.

***Peter Dunning***

Principal



# TIME IN NATURE HAS NOT BEEN CANCELLED

## 25 THINGS TO DO IN SOCIAL ISOLATION



- 1 Camp out overnight in your own backyard! Pitch a tent or sleep under the stars.
- 2 Start a nature journal - sketch or paint leaves, fungi, flowers or other nature finds.
- 3 Collect leaves and make a nature crown or necklace. Pointy leaves are perfect!
- 4 Try star gazing - what's the first star you see in the night sky? How many can you count?
- 5 Make a "campsite" in your backyard with a cubby (try and make it waterproof) and pretend campfire.
- 6 Get on your bikes or scooters and head out for a family ride, around your neighbourhood.
- 7 Plant out the veggie patch with seasonal vegetables.
- 8 Go on a photo safari. Choose a subject (or colour scheme) and see what you can "capture".
- 9 Go geocaching around your neighbourhood | if you've never tried a digital treasure hunt before, visit the "[Things To Do - Geocaching](#)" section of our website.
- 10 We're going on a bear hunt! Place a teddy in your front window so passersby can see them. How many can you see in your neighbourhood?
- 11 Get artistic with sidewalk chalk. Draw a hopscotch or rainbow on the footpath outside your house!
- 12 Use a notebook to press nature treasures. Collect leaves or flowers, and write notes to remind you of when and where you found them.
- 13 Discover more fun ways to play outdoors. Download the [Nature Play WA](#) app to get started.
- 14 Break out the card & board games. Snakes & Ladders, Monopoly, UNO and Pictionary: let's play!
- 15 Learn a new skill. Who in your family can teach you how to knit, sew, bake, garden or build?
- 16 Go on a bug hunt! What creepy crawlies can you find in your very own back yard?
- 17 Create a "boho" picnic experience in your backyard - use couch cushions and floor rugs, with bedsheets hung off your swing set as a canopy.
- 18 Learn how to service your scooter or bike. Check for damage, punctures & give it a good clean.
- 19 Create a living tepee. Fasten together sticks or bamboo & plant a climber (peas or beans).
- 20 Cook on backyard fire pit. Snags in a frypan or toast on a toasting fork. And who can forget the toasted marshmallows? (Check for fire bans first!)
- 21 Go on a family bushwalk. Check the "Things To Do - Hiking" section on our website for trails. Be sure to check for any park closures before you go.
- 22 Write a letter. Find out your friends' addresses, write to them, or send a picture you've drawn.
- 23 Try cloud watching. Can you see animals or shapes? Tell a story about them as they float across the sky.
- 24 Cook together. Make jam or preserves using seasonal fruit. Design your own label for your jam.
- 25 Try mindfulness. Choose a spot outside to spend 5-10 minutes each day. What sights & sounds do you experience? Do the change from day to day?

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