

# Mornington Park Primary School



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**VISION :** Through a sense of connectedness to peers, teachers and the community, Mornington Park Primary School provides a safe and harmonious learning environment which nurtures the whole child for success in a changing world.

**VALUES:** Honesty, Perseverance, Cooperation, Kindness, Responsibility.



## CONTACT TERM 3 2021

From the Principal Issue 14 Date: 27th August

### Remote Learning

Firstly, thank you to all families for your support during this time. We are really missing the children at school and hopeful that this will end as soon as possible. At this stage, I have no news regarding when the lockdown will end.

I have had a number of inquiries about children having to wear masks at school and the latest advice is, that they are recommended, but not mandatory. I will keep you informed about this as information unfolds.

As always, please contact us if there is anything at all that we can do to support you.



### School Review

Next week we are starting our School Review. What this means is that the goals and targets that we set 4 years ago, during a similar process, will be scrutinised to ascertain how successful we have been. We then set new goals for the next 4 year cycle, with the help of an external reviewer (Chosen by the Department of Education), two challenge partners and our School Improvement Team. The challenge partners are principals in other schools and to assist us, we have Brett Miller (Acting Principal of Osborne Primary ) and Maria Shearn (Principal of East Bentleigh Steiner and mainstream school)

Part of the process will be to have focus groups of children, parents and teachers to gain as much information about the school as possible, while giving every area of the school, a voice.

Unfortunately due to the lockdown, this will all be completed via online platforms! On Monday 30th August,

## Enrolments for 2022

Believe it or not, we are starting to prepare our classes for 2022. The Indicative Budget is going to be released in a couple of weeks and to help us prepare, we need to know our student numbers as accurately as possible. If you know of anybody who is thinking of enrolling at the school, can you please remind them to contact the office as soon as possible. Conversely, if you know your child will not be attending school next year, please let us know as well.....even if it is a maybe!

### Helpful Ideas from early childhood consultant, Louise Dorrat.

Instead of the focus being on the 3 'R's ("reading, [w]riting and [a]rithmetic"). It's all about the 6 'C's; **Confidence, Creativity, Curiosity, Cooperation, Commitment, & Communication** and the 3 'I's; **Improvisation, Investigation, Imagination.**



[Self expression through dress-ups, cooperation and communication when cubby making and pretending, early numeracy development through sorting and classifying toys ... play fostering the "6 C's" of school readiness!](#)

What can families do to prepare their child for returning to school?

Although usual school routines have been interrupted for many, the best thing about COVID-19 is the presence of so many children and families walking around the neighbourhood, playing at the park and having fun together. We know that the outdoors is the healthiest and safest place to be during this pandemic and research tells us that the outdoors is the best place to learn and so important for children's sense of wellbeing. Most of these ideas are free yet support every possible learning outcome. They can also be done with current Victorian COVID-19 restrictions.

- Have a routine
- Play, play and play some more.
- Encourage open ended play (no right or wrong), playing in the sandpit, playing with water, dress ups, songs, dancing, climbing trees, drawing, painting, pasting and playing with blocks, playdough, dolls and cubbies.
- Children don't need a separate playroom down the hall, most want to work where you are. Set up an old table close to the kitchen and have all their resources close by. Encourage lots of physical activity outside.
- Puzzles or games such as UNO, Memory, age appropriate board games and charades.
- Sing songs and rhymes and read lots and lots and lots of stories.
- Cook and follow recipes; playdough, pizza, cakes etc.
- Encourage independence and self-help skills such as tying shoelaces and putting clothes away.
- Encourage children to set the table, how many people, how many place mats are needed?
- Have conversations around the dinner table and allow your child to answer.
- Ensure you remain positive about COVID-19 when your child is listening. Children can pick up on parent's anxiety.

When this pandemic is over and our lives get busy again, we may look back at this time and wonder why we didn't appreciate the slower pace with our children. So, feel confident that when your child is playing, they are developing life-long skills in mathematics, science, creative arts, emotional learning, language and literacy.

**I've included more ideas over the page!**

## Managing screen time and online safety

It's important you keep a balanced approach to home learning. Time spent using digital devices for learning should be broken up with physical exercise and offline learning tasks often.

It's also important that during this time of remote learning we maintain safe and responsible use of information and communication technologies.

For more information about being safe online, visit [Bully Stoppers](#).

## Looking after your child's wellbeing

Wellbeing comes from physical, mental and emotional health.

For children and young people, there are many things that build positive wellbeing. Wellbeing can come from:

- understanding and managing emotions
- having good relationships
- experiencing a sense of accomplishment
- taking part in healthy activities, getting lots of sleep and eating well

For more information, including wellbeing activities and conversation starters, visit: [Looking after your child's wellbeing](#).

## Looking after your child's mental health

Changes in your child's mood and behaviour are a normal part of growing up.

While you know your child better than anyone, sometimes it can also be hard to know the difference between normal behaviour and potential mental health concerns. No one expects you to be an expert in mental health.

For more information, visit: [Looking after your child's mental health](#).

## Physical activity and healthy eating

Keeping active and eating well helps maintain your child's physical and mental health. It also helps with concentration, memory and problem solving.

For more information, visit: [Keeping your child active and eating healthy](#).

## Talking to your child about COVID-19

You can follow tips for [talking to your child about COVID-19](#). They include how to have a safe and reassuring conversation and links to resources to help you and your family.

## Taking care of yourself

Looking after your own wellbeing and mental and physical health is important.

If looking after yourself is challenging and you have concerns about how you are coping, support is available.

For more information, visit: [Taking care of yourself](#).

## Online parenting advice

[Triple P – positive parenting](#) is a online tool to help you:

- raise happy, confident and resilient children
- manage misbehaviour so everyone in the family enjoys life more
- encourage positive behaviour
- set family routines and rules that everyone can follow
- balance work and family life with less stress
- take care of yourself

# August 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4 Parent Teacher Interviews	5 Parent Teacher	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Professor Maths Incursions – Mainstream P-5 Steiner 4-6	14	15
16	17 I Sea I Care Catchment Excursion TBC	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# September 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Mainstream Science Day Last Day of Term	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			