



The Beehive Montessori School Inc.

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ABN: 30 855 464 402

Our Ref: A054/20.DMc

30<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Remote Learning Update

Dear Parents,

As with all things Covid-19 related, things change rapidly and daily. Up until Friday 27 March, as families voluntarily self-isolated, their teacher provided them with learning materials and guidance as they could, in conjunction with still providing lessons to those attending school.

With the Premier asking that all parents keep children home from school if at all possible, there has been a rapid change in the numbers of students at home. We have brought forward the learning plans originally created for remote learning in Term 2. With the reduction of numbers this week, teachers are now able to combine classes, giving them the opportunity to implement a deeper level of home learning while still supporting those who need to attend school.

Today, each student will be sent, via their parents or carers, Issue 1 of the Weekly Work Plan. This plan outlines suggested activities in the main curriculum areas of Maths, English and Culture (with the addition of Practical Life and Sensorial activities for the Junior Primary classes). In addition to the Weekly Work Plan, which caters for the varying age levels in each class, your child's teacher will be in regular contact with further work according to their individual needs.

Teachers will send out Issue 2 next Monday morning. While it is now officially school holidays next week, many of you are working from home and the ongoing work cycle may be beneficial for the continuity of your child's learning. Issue 3 will be sent on Tuesday 28 April to start off the first week of Term 2, and thereafter each Monday morning as the current situation continues.

So much of what we do at Montessori is 'hands-on' and makes use of Montessori materials. It can't be exactly replicated at home so we have been creative in how we convert to home learning. The Weekly Work Plan is different to what we usually do, however like the Montessori materials used in the classroom it follows the AMI curriculum, is inviting, open-ended and stimulates further exploration. Montessori students are able to be self-directed and have well developed executive functioning skill sets that are a real asset during this unusual time. Older students will be able to follow the Work Plan, extending their learning as they do in class by following their interests in the form of a project or deeper exploration. The teachers will guide this as they usually do through their regular contact.

Other students, particularly the younger ones, will need more parent support and guidance, but once they are on track they will continue independently and



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enthusiastically as they do in class. Again, the teachers will guide, support and extend each child individually just as they do in the classroom.

### Teachers will also continue to:

- source resources that can be used at home by children of all ages and also to support parents as they work from home as well;
- explore different ways to use technology while maintaining the Montessori philosophy and keeping screen time to a minimum;
- develop general age appropriate resources as well as creating plans for each individual child;
- maintain a learning record of this period of your child's education, including:
  - a learning story which includes a record of communication, resources and photos;
  - Transparent Classroom updates (including photos);
- develop plans to support children of families working in essential services who remain at School;
- provide printed materials if parents don't have a printer; and
- help manage student anxiety and emotional wellbeing.

### What parents can do:

We realise that home learning can be stressful on top of the already emotional times of uncertainty around us. Remember to be kind on yourselves and the children and allow yourself time to learn how best to change your home life schedule to suit. No one is expected to get it right straight away, we are all learning as we go. Your children's teachers can help suggest ways that you can set yourselves up and adapt to the new way of life.

Remember, your children are probably stressed too. Do whatever you need to do as a family to take care of each other. There are some websites at the back of the Learning from Home website that might help you discuss this with your children.

In particular, remember that a typical school day of 8.30-3.00 includes fitness, morning tea, lunch, socialising, sketching, reading, planning, follow on activities, repetition, project work, gardening, playtime and pack-up jobs. Well-known educator and author Maggie Dent, shared this timely reminder in a recent Facebook post. You do not have to fill your child's day with lessons - it will be too much for you and certainly too much for your child. Develop a routine that suits your family, and be sure to allow for down time for you all. If you need assistance planning a schedule, we are here to help. Teachers are very happy to share their class timetables with you if you feel this will help.

Some simple basics to help establish home learning are outlined in the Learning from Home Handbook, but if you need more guidance please ask. If you set up a learning



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space with all the tools your child will need readily available, they will be able to get what they need independently. Have a ready supply of paper, pencils, ruler, eraser, scissors, glue, paints etc, as well as the additional resources teachers will send home. If you need our help with supplies, please let us know.

Encourage your child to help out with household jobs as they do at school. This includes preparing food, cleaning up, sweeping, dusting, cleaning windows, watering the plants, scrubbing and much more. They get lots of practice in their usual school day and can certainly be active participants at home.

Keep us up to date! In particular, we ask that you send 2-3 photos a week to your teacher. These, along with work samples (scanned or photographs) will help inform the teacher on future guidance and support for your child and enable them to monitor and record progress. It can be work from the Weekly Work Plan, or something unrelated but enjoyable to your child if you prefer. If you prefer not to do that, just let your teacher know.

“Follow the child”- we have all heard that before! It means observe your child’s passions and allow their education to go down that path. Children will have the time to dig deep into a favourite subject of their own choosing.

And of course, even when you are home keep practicing that handwashing- if you haven’t seen the video on Facebook, here is the link - sing along!  
<https://www.facebook.com/beehivemontessori.wa.edu.au/videos/2834541483298630/>

As always, teachers are available for parents to speak about their concerns and questions.

Stay well, and thank you for your words of support in this difficult time. Thank you also to those parents who have embraced home learning so far, and for sending photos and updates.

Debbie and Beehive teachers

