



The Beehive Montessori School Inc.

Curtin Avenue, Mosman Park WA 6012

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ABN: 30 855 464 402

Our Ref: A049/20.DMc

23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020

Dear parents,

There has been a huge amount of correspondence this term related to COVID-19 and its impact, the recommendations, what the school is doing, and so on.

**Now it is time for a letter about you and your children, and how we at Beehive can continue to support you all, whether schools remain open or are closed.**

Some of you have made the decision to self-isolate for a variety of reasons, all of which are valid. We are here for you, just as we are here for those who prefer or need to remain at school. Beehive will love, nurture and educate your children whether they are at school or at home.

### **Learning from Home**

The teachers have been preparing resources to share with parents with children staying at home, and these will be available to you this week. Beehive's Learning at Home Handbook will start you off on this new journey. This Handbook was developed originally by the Montessori School of Tokyo, and has been added to and shared by many Montessori schools around Australia, including Beehive. This is not going to replicate what we do at school, but it will help guide you as we all adapt to a different routine.

We do not expect that you will spend a typical school day of 6 hours 'teaching' your children. Providing a daily routine; a designated 'work space'; and the opportunity for uninterrupted concentration will help, but be sure to allow for 'down' time and the usual activities your children like to do at home.

You know them best, and if you or your children are anxious, tired, or overloaded- do something you will all find enjoyable like take a walk, cook something or run around in the garden. Every activity has learning opportunities so please don't feel pressured to 'get through' the work. Take time to read, chat, listen to music- whatever is needed to ensure your own wellbeing as well as your children's.

*"Respect all the reasonable forms of activity in which the child engages and try to understand them". Maria Montessori*

In addition to the Learning from Home Handbook, teachers will support each student who is learning at home and provide specific activities to you via email (our school network does not support video links such as Zoom and Skype). If you would like to speak to your teacher, please email them to make a phone appointment. Our plan at the moment is for teachers to start with weekly email check ins with each family who have a student learning from home.



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We do not want to add more stress in your lives- we will provide suggestions for learning activities but if you have other ideas for the week that is fine. I suggest you take 2-3 photos a week of your children engaged in something they are enjoying, and share these with your teacher. This will help keep a connection between them and their teacher; enable the teacher to plan activities for the coming week based on their interests; and the teacher can upload them to Transparent Classroom to maintain their learning records during this time.

Also try to maintain some social contact and collaborative work with your children's friends via FaceTime or some other platform you have available to you. It will help maintain a social and emotional connection during this time of social distancing and isolation.

### School Closure

The Government will determine whether schools close, and the conditions of that closure. The school will notify you via email and a notice will be placed on the website and Facebook page. If notification from the Government happens out of school hours, the Beeliners will initially be notified via text so that they can forward the email to you.

### Support

We are here for you, and we will offer whatever support we can. At the back of the Learning from Home Handbook are selected websites that can offer information and provide guidance in reducing anxiety in you and your children.

If at any time you need to contact me please email [debbie@beehive.wa.edu.au](mailto:debbie@beehive.wa.edu.au) and I can respond via email or give you a call. If you choose to self-isolate, please notify your classroom teacher and [admin@beehive.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@beehive.wa.edu.au).

I hope you all remain safe and well during this highly unusual time, and I very much looking forward to seeing everyone again as soon as possible, and *don't forget, kindness, love and empathy are contagious too.* (Burn Bright <https://www.burnbright.org.au/>)

Debbie McCarthy  
Acting Principal

