



Thursday, the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2020

CELEBRATING LEARNING IN ...

## Grade F / 1

Wow, what a first week of Home Learning! It has been tough, it has been frustrating but it has also been amazing in so many ways. We are so proud to be a part of such a supportive and positive school community. Thanks to each of our families for being patient with us as we navigate though our current learning journey.



Ryder is pictured playing Uno for his maths task.  
Hudson is completing his hundreds chart.  
Amelia is counting beyond 100 using corn kernels.



### HOME LEARNING

Georgia's Easter recount.  
Charlie is using LEGO to practise counting, estimation and checking.



**Art work:**  
Ryder's nature turtle, Charlotte's colour wheel and Sway's human nature piece.

A screen shot of our class Webex meeting. Our students and teachers really look forward to these daily catch ups.





## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Celebrations!

Two weeks ago, our students commenced a very different method of learning. We have learnt a lot in this short period of time – about online platforms, about technology, about each other, about ourselves. It has been a very challenging time for our students as they seek to learn how to gain support in this new environment. It has been a very challenging time for our teachers and staff as they seek to identify methods and tools which they can utilise to support their students. And importantly, just as much as anyone else, it has been a very challenging time for our parents/guardians as they have sought to support their child's learning from home – often whilst balancing work commitments and/or younger, pre-school age children, or whilst attempting to overcome other hurdles laid before them as a result of the world we currently live in.

Today, I write specifically to our parents and guardians. I write to say thank you for all that you are doing to support your children. We know this has not been at all easy. We know that whilst staff have been available to your children as much as possible, you are still having to provide them with assistance in their work on a regular basis. As I write this newsletter from home this morning, I listen to my wife talk to my 13 year old step son. It becomes apparent that he is falling behind in his Maths. The conversation is clearly quite serious as both are indicating their concern about this. Meanwhile our 2 year old daughter is desperately trying to get her mother's attention. My wife is a trained teacher. And she is finding this very challenging. So please know that if you are finding this time particularly difficult, you are not alone. "We are all in this together" sung Ben Lee on ANZAC Day night during the *Music from the Home Front* concert. Never has this line been thrown around more. And never has this statement been so true.

I spoke to a Willowmavin parent yesterday regarding how they were feeling about supporting their children learn from home. Apprehensive, nervous and under pressure. These were some feelings mentioned. I have no doubt that these are feelings many of our parents and guardians are feeling right now. Right now, we can't change the situation we are in, however perhaps we can change the way we view the situation we are in. Whilst our teachers have done everything they can to provide our students with learning tasks that they are capable of engaging in at home, and Anne and Maggie are doing everything they can to provide further support, each student and each home environment is different. If you are having significant challenges in engaging your child/ren with the learning provided, please know that it is OK to do something else, and it is certainly OK to have a break. If you have multiple children engaging in remote learning, you may find staggering the learning for the day to be of assistance so that you're not feeling pulled in 10 different directions. Attendance during this time is flexible. A student is able to commence their learning in the early or even late evening, and still be marked as present for the day. Please do not allow any thoughts about your child "falling behind" to hover over you like a dark cloud. When this is all over and we have returned to the normal classroom environment, our wonderful teachers will quickly ascertain where your child is at with their learning and support them in bridging any gaps.

So, in a nutshell, keep doing the best you can in the circumstances you find yourselves in. And as much as possible, don't let your child's learning become a source of frustration or negativity in your household. It's OK if your child is not getting every piece of work done. It's OK to feel like you don't know what you're doing. Seek supports that are available to you – both from the school and your own network. Above all, take care of yourself. One thing I have loved about this time is driving to and from work and noting such a significant increase in the number of families out and about riding bikes, taking walks together, spending quality time together. If your circumstances allow it, make this your priority with your families at this time.

### Resources to Support Vulnerable Families

We are aware of a number of supports that families who are doing it tough financially can access. Food banks, petrol vouchers and other items are available to those families who need the support at this time. For more information on this, you are encouraged to contact Maggie via her e-mail account at [maggie.Willowmavin@gmail.com](mailto:maggie.Willowmavin@gmail.com).

### The School is Here

We know that families are all experiencing remote learning under different circumstances and that for some these circumstances can change significantly on a day to day basis. In particular, we would like to express our thoughts and condolences to any families who have experienced loss at this time – particularly given the impacts of social distancing regulations in this area. No matter your circumstances, if at any time, you feel the school can provide you with support, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

### Thank You

Massive thanks to the Buhagiar family, in particular Chris, and of course our evergreen Yvonne who have ensured the school's grounds have been maintained between terms. Once we have confirmation of a return to on-site learning, we may put a call out for assistance in this area.

### Signing Off

*And long division, just doesn't matter, 'cos we're all in this together*

Until next time, take care of one another, and be the best you can be.

Mr. O'Callaghan



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The school has been in contact with Kilmore Police to pass on its condolences and thoughts during this time. The following is a message that has been left with Police at the Kilmore Police Station, along with a bouquet of flowers:

### **To the Victoria Police,**

*Today marks the first farewell for the four of your officers killed so tragically last week in that horrific incident. This incident has reminded us of the dangers you face in your constant efforts to protect our community. We thank you sincerely for your ongoing efforts and sacrifices as you serve to protect us all. We are particularly horrified and deeply saddened by the actions that were alleged to have been taken by an individual during the aftermath of this incident and know that this would have caused all members of the Police great hurt and anger.*

*As a primary school, please be assured that we are committed to providing students with the values they need to be respectful, responsible and upstanding members of their community.*

*We offer our deepest condolences and gratitude to the entire Victorian Police Force at this extraordinarily sad time.*

*Deepest Sympathies,  
Staff, Students and Families of Willowmavin Primary School*



The **MORE** that you  
**READ**, the **more things**  
you will **KNOW**.  
The **MORE** that you  
**Learn**, the **more places**  
you'll **GO**.  
Dr. Seuss

**25 Nights Plus**

Hudson Buhagiar  
Charlotte Jackson  
Louis Campbell  
Torah Lang  
Hannah Pate  
Molly Gill  
Milla Hiscock  
Lacey Buhagiar  
Charlie McCrossan  
Elias Haber  
Charlotte Bradley  
Bailey Morgan  
Charlie McKenzie  
Ruby Ellis  
Jack Griffiths  
Willow Roberts  
Jett Skinner-Mclean  
Jake Bamford-Newey  
Harrison Mealy  
Tanika Dale  
Charlotte Hiscock  
Jake Jackson

**50 Nights Plus**

Georgia Bradley  
Charlie McKenzie  
Beau Jervis  
Riley McKenzie  
Willow Poulter  
Jesse Jervis

**75 Nights Plus**

Maddie Nolan  
Olivia Poulter  
Rhys Pate  
Tyler Stebbing  
Anneka Thornton  
Jai Bamford-Newey  
Anwyn Lajang  
Alex Mason  
Alexis Carter  
Christopher Milvain

**100 Nights Plus**

**125 Nights Plus**

**150 Nights Plus**

**175 Nights Plus**

**200 Nights Plus**

**225 Nights Plus**

**250 Nights Plus**

**275 Nights Plus**

**300 Nights Plus**



Thursday, the 30th of April, 2020

## What's On...



### May

- 1<sup>st</sup> First Online School Assembly at 3pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> School library open to families



### May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia Bradley
- 7<sup>th</sup> Jack Hamilton
- 9<sup>th</sup> Anwyn Lajang
- 10<sup>th</sup> Jake Jackson
- 11<sup>th</sup> Ryder Morgan
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jesse Jervis
- 24<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Bradley

### Library Open Next Tuesday, May 5

We understand that many families may be finding it challenging to provide their children with quality reading materials due to public libraries being closed. As such, the school library will be open to families to come in and borrow books next Tuesday, May 5. We will have processes in place to ensure social distancing guidelines are adhered to. One such measure will be to have two session times:

**10 to 11am: Open to F/1 & 1/2/3 families, with siblings in Grades 3/4 and 5/6 with a surname from A-K , also able to attend at this time.**

**12 to 1pm: Open to Grade 3/4 & 5/6 families, with siblings in Grades F/1 & 1/2/3 with a surname from L-Z , also able to attend at this time.**

For example, if you have a child in both F/1 and Grade 3/4 and your surname begins with the letter T, you would come to the 12 – 1pm session with both children.

To assist our planning, please inform your class teacher that you will be coming in with an estimated time, so that teachers can take a record of this.