



Purpose

At White Hills Primary School we provide students with skills to be lifelong learners. We are a community which caters for academic, physical, social and emotional needs, preparing our students to contribute productively to an increasingly globalised world.

Calendar of Events

Term 2 2020: Wednesday 15 April – Friday 26 June

Week 6

Mon 18 – Fri 22 May **Education Week Online**

Week 7

Monday 25 May

Tuesday 26 May

Friday 29 May

Pupil Free day – No students on this day

Prep, G1 & G2 start today onsite

G3 Camp Deposit Due 4.00pm

Yr 6-7 Transition Forms Due

Monday 8 June

Tuesday 9 June

Friday 26 June

Queen's Birthday Holiday

G3 - G6 start today onsite

Last Day Term 2

Term 3 2020: Monday 13 July – Friday 18 September

Wednesday 22 July

Mon 27 Jul – Fri 7 Aug

Let's Get Moving payment due 4.00pm

Let's Get Moving

Term 4 2020: Monday 5 October – Friday 18 December

Mon 19 – Fri 23 Oct

Tuesday 17 November

Wed 25 – Fri 27 Dec

Wed 2 – Fri 4 Dec

Book Week

G5 Camp Balance Due 4.00pm

G6 Camp

G5 Camp

Semester 1 School Reports

Due to remote learning, there will be a modified written report for all students for Semester 1. It will include the following:

- a brief description of the areas of the curriculum taught (literacy, maths, specialist subjects)
- a comment on how your child has adjusted to the remote and flexible learning environment
- a succinct descriptive assessment of student learning achievement based on the Victorian Curriculum standards
- Dot point scale of Behaviour and Effort

Please note the report will NOT INCLUDE the five-point scale, as staff will not have accumulated sufficient assessment evidence.

Enrolment update for 2021 Foundation (Preps)

At this stage, the school has 20 sibling enrolments, 3 enrolments from children who reside inside the neighbourhood and 4 interim enrolments (families who reside outside the neighbourhood catchment). Information about possible school tours will be communicated via the school website once we can confirm that these can begin.

Principal's News

Hi everyone,

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has advised that schools can begin a phased return to on-site schooling. This will give the Victorian Chief Health Officer and Government time to monitor and evaluate the effects of the staged return.

In the **first stage**, students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2, will return to school from Tuesday 26 May.

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition,

Monday 25 May will be a pupil-free day- NO Kids!

In the **second stage** of our return to on-site schooling, all other year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9 June.

For those students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of on-site schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which on-site schooling is required will continue for this two-week period.

All other students in these grades and year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to on-site schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan.

This same approach is being taken by all government schools in Victoria.

To support the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent hand washing.

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice. This will apply until further notice. I will provide more detail about our local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:

- Possible adjusted arrangements for drop off and pick up, including staggered school start and finish times;
- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students;
- the way we conduct parent-teacher meetings and interviews

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

When students do return to school.....

Parents must enter the school grounds only when essential. If they do have to be on site, they must minimise their time and practice physical distancing.

Student Illness

Once school resumes, if your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice. If a student is indicating signs of sickness or cold symptoms at school, we will be contacting parents to pick them up. There will be a minimum risk approach taken for students who are unwell.

Year 6-7 Transition Forms

Year 6 families should have received a pre-populated application form. We ask that **families please complete sections 4B to 6 within the form and return to White Hills PS by Friday, 29 May.**

REPEAT MESSAGES

Prep 2021 Enrolment

This year we will be unable to conduct information sessions for prospective 2021 prep parents here at school during Education Week as we had planned. However, we have uploaded videos on the school's website. Visit the Enrolment tab on the landing page at <https://www.whitehillsp.vic.edu.au/page/70>

The videos discuss enrolment, wellbeing and the reasons why families should select WHPS for their child.

As our school has an enrolment ceiling, the school has to manage enrolments. To do this, we follow the state-wide guidelines and a copy of the school's enrolment policy can be found on the website outlining these. The school enrolls approximately 85 Foundation (prep) students each year and they are divided into four classrooms.

In summary places are allocated in the following order:

- 1. Any family who resides within the school neighbourhood can enrol their child in the school (this applies to all schools)**
- 2. Students with a sibling currently in the school**
- 3. Students who reside outside the school neighbourhood in order of closeness from their home to the school (as the crow flies or in a straight line)**

So if you fit into one of the first two categories above please complete a full enrolment form and return to the office with copies of your child's immunisation records and birth certificate. Knowing how many students in the neighbourhood and sibling enrolments the school will have next year will assist us to know how many places will then be available for families who reside outside the school's neighbourhood.

If you are not sure if you live within or outside the school's catchment please visit www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au and enter your home address.

If you reside outside the neighbourhood, please complete an interim enrolment form and drop this at the office.

Enrolment has been extended to Friday 31st July and school tours can be conducted once restrictions have been lifted.

Camp Australia-Before and After School Care

Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) reopened its service on Wednesday 15th April at White Hills PS.

As per the recent State Government advice, from the start of Term 2, all students who can learn from home must learn at home. Complying with this direction, only children of parents who cannot work from home, vulnerable children, or children that are not able to be supervised at home on certain days and no other arrangements can be made, should access this service.

To ensure everyone understands the important message of staying at home as much as possible, OSHC have made the decision to cancel all previously made bookings for Term 2, except for bookings made within the last 7 days. They have directed families that should they meet the above criteria, they must register their status in their system and rebook their care as needed. For all families that attend, childcare will be provided free of charge until 30th June as per the Federal Government's announcement on the 2nd April.

Camping Program

We have had a number of enquiries regarding camp deposits that are due early this term given to the current situation. We are confident that the camps program will continue as usual. If the camps do not proceed due to the current COVID-19, parents will be refunded camp deposits. If the camps do go ahead as scheduled, and a family pay a deposit and then decide their child will not be attending the camp, the deposit would be forfeited, consistent with the current process in place.

Please let us know if there's anything we can do to support you here at WHPS.

Andrew Schaeche,

Principal

Coping guide

Even without the extraordinary pressures of COVID-19, kids typically face many hardships, frustrations and difficulties as they go through different stages of development. This guide contains 12 broad coping strategies parents can develop in their children to help them deal with normal, developmental hardships, frustrations and difficulties. These include loss, disappointment, change, rejection, failure and conflict. **Below is strategy 3&4**

STRATEGY 3

GET AWAY FROM IT ALL

Help your child take a break from his or her bad thoughts.

My mum was an expert at taking my mind off bad things. When I was young I was upset when a neighbour's dog killed my guinea pig. My mum took me to a movie that afternoon as a special treat. She knew the best way to help me deal with this big shock was to get me out of the house for a while. The technical term for what my mum did is 'adaptive distancing'. My mum was getting my mind off things for a while.

When kids are troubled by events, or spend too much time brooding do something to get their minds off things for a time. Play a game, spend time together, have a treat, watch some TV, go out – do something different to distract kids. Teach your kids that self-distraction is a healthy thing and usually gives them some perspective. It also prevents them from replaying awful experiences in their head and blowing them out of proportion.

THIS STRATEGY REQUIRES KIDS TO 'BLINK' AWAY THEIR BAD THOUGHTS AND DISTRACT THEMSELVES WITH SOMETHING PLEASURABLE RATHER THAN DWELL TOO LONG ON DIFFICULT SITUATIONS.

WHAT TO SAY

"Build a wall around the bad thoughts."
"Blink away the bad thoughts."



STRATEGY 4

GET SOME HELP

Help your child talk about what's bothering them.

A problem shared is a problem halved. Resilient people seek solace in the company of others when they experience difficulty. This is why social connection is such a strong preventative strategy for young people. The promotion of help-seeking behaviours is one of the best coping strategies we can promote. Even if kids don't overtly talk about what's bothering them, it can be immensely reassuring to spend time around others who are empathetic, understanding and willing to listen and help.

Some kids need help identifying who they can talk things through with – including friends, teachers and family members. It's also helpful to talk about how they can go about asking for assistance. Sometimes kids want to talk to others but don't know how to approach people so they bottle things up instead. Talk about the best way to open up dialogue with different groups of people.

THIS STRATEGY REQUIRES KIDS TO SEEK OUT FRIENDS, FAMILY AND OTHER ADULTS WHO MAY BE ABLE TO HELP THEM DEAL WITH THEIR CHALLENGES.

WHAT TO
SAY

"Who have you spoken to about this?"
"Who can help you about this?"

