



WEST LEEDERVILLE
PRIMARY

From the Principal

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of Term 1! How different the world looks now compared to day one back in February.

The past month has been a time of significant change; for some of you it has created feelings of anxiousness, for others, another challenge to take in your stride. For me, it has been a combination of both of these things.

I want to thank you all for your support during this time. For your efforts helping your children, our students, move to an online learning environment and for caring and supporting our teachers as they too adapt to a new way of working. I know firsthand, having my own child at home learning, it is not always easy. So, a heartfelt thanks, your partnership at this time is critical and appreciated. Thank you also, for whenever possible, keeping your children safe at home. Please be assured that the small group of students, children of essential workers, who have been on site this week have been well cared for.

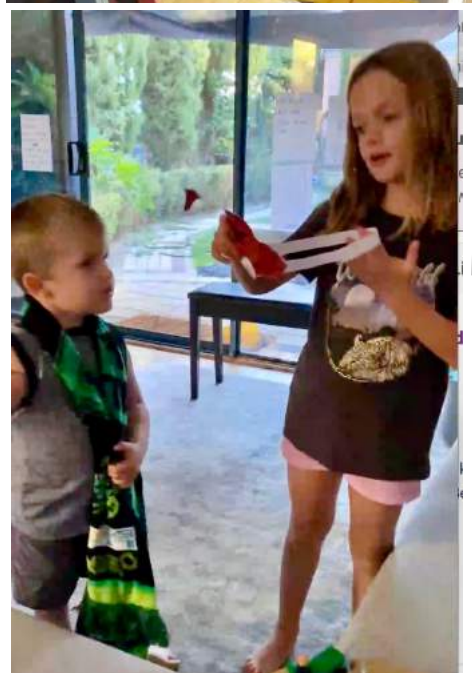
One thing many people have struggled with in the past few months is wanting definitive answers and not getting them. Scientists have given us many facts, they have been superb in helping us to understand the global crisis we are all embroiled in. But, we have been reminded too, that responding to a new virus, at this stage, is not an exact science. Sometimes there are no answers to give and we are all learning, interpreting and responding to facts in our own context.

The most recent instructions from the Director General of Education for Term 2 are:

- All public schools will remain open.
- Parents are strongly encouraged keep their children at home.
- Those who need to send their children to school to maintain employment, children of essential workers and those who require schools to support them overcome particular vulnerabilities, however, may choose to do so.
- All students will be taught: those attending school and those learning at home.



Above & below, Matthew from Year 1 Blue teaching his brother everything he learns at school.



Above, collaborative drama tasks at home. Gold star to the Hobbs family!

- Student wellbeing remains a priority.

What this will look like at West Leederville Primary School:

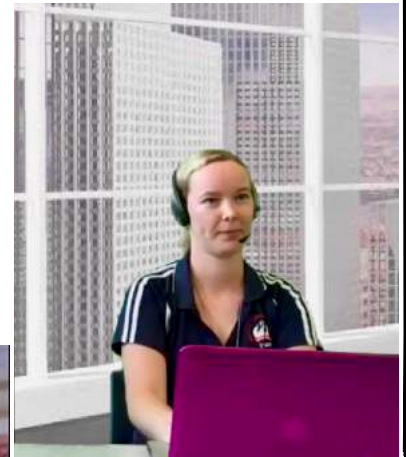
- Students will be taught through our on-line platforms as trialled over the last fortnight. These strategies will be adapted over time, as teachers and students identify the most effective strategies.
- Our teachers and support staff will continue to explore creative and engaging ways to deliver the curriculum to the best of our ability during this time.
- Parents will be supported, resourced and encouraged to support children learning at home.
- Children, who for the reasons listed above, attend school, will be supported to participate in the online program offered by their classroom teachers, ensuring all children are accessing the same curriculum.
- Although we are using technology to stay connected with our students, we realise it's not quite the same as being here at WLPS. This is why we are working hard to develop initiatives that will keep students connected and engaged with us and each other during this online time. This includes our support staff engaging directly with many students who require additional support.

There are very few positives to take away from this current situation, but I'm heartened by how we have demonstrated a deeper appreciation for each other and the experiences we share. Personally, I am feeling a positive shift in our collective humanity. There is an overall trend to be kinder, actively looking for ways to help others and all the while being thankful for all that we have.

I will update you during the holidays if there are any significant changes to our plans for Term 2. Please remember our teachers have had a challenging few weeks and now need to rest and recuperate with their families. Please do not be offended if they do not respond to your communications during the holiday period. We will see all students in 'West Leederville Online School', Tuesday 28th April.

I wish you all a very happy holiday. Please stay safe, well and sane!

Fiona Kelly
Principal



Below and right, Year 4 teachers Mrs Swinhoe and Miss Hawgood embrace the video platform Vimeo, much to the amusement of their students learning at home.



Tennis ball antics

The Dhepnorrarat family took us up on our tennis ball challenge and have been very creative in their efforts. Maebh & Aedan created both Easter and Christmas versions of tennis ball craft.

Our challenge is for our families to create different things out of tennis balls which we have bought (and don't bounce), for the 2021 fete. We don't want them to go to waste and have decided to set you this challenge. Check out all the different things that can be made with a [tennis ball](#)! If you would like to make some of these creative items, please come and collect some tennis balls from outside the front office. something amazing that we can sell and raise funds for the school.



INSIGHTS

Helping siblings resolve their fights



With family members living in close proximity during the current COVID-19 pandemic, parents may find an increase in sibling squabbles. This is understandable as any relationship is tested to its limits by excess time and lack of space. Sibling squabbles usually arise over low level issues such as space (“He’s sitting in my seat.”), possessions (“That’s my book!”) and fairness (“It’s not fair. I was here first!”). It’s enough to send most parents around the twist.

While it seems that kids in families are programmed to fight with each other, the good news is that parents have the power to facilitate learning.

According to a recent study, sibling fights teach kids important conflict resolution skills. In fact, parents who stop their children from arguing may well be depriving them of important learning opportunities. Researcher Laurie Kramer from the University of Illinois in the US found that kids who learned how to argue with their siblings had more advanced emotional development.

Many parents also worry that their children who fight with each other will not get along as adults. The evidence doesn’t support this view. The test for strong families is more about the willingness for kids to pull together when the chips are down, rather than the frequency of the squabbling.

Healthy families know how to fight well. When parents take an active approach to helping their children resolve their fights, they are teaching them a valuable life skill as well as reducing the incidence of fighting over the long term. Here are some practical strategies to use:

Model good conflict resolution skills

Kids wear L plates when it comes to solving disputes. Some kids will yell, get abusive or even get physical when they are settling disputes. Show them better ways of sorting out problems by talking things through with your partner, compromising and apologising when you’ve said something upsetting to your partner or your children.

Help kids manage their emotions

“Yep, it would make me mad too if someone said that to me.” Usually someone’s feelings get hurt when siblings argue so make sure you recognise their emotions without taking sides. This focus on feelings helps kids develop emotional literacy and promotes empathy in siblings as well.

Monitor sibling relationships

Keep your antenna up for the signs of discord within sibling relationships. Some disputes kids can sort out themselves, but you need to be ready to intervene and assist kids in the peace-brokering, or at least to act as a safety net when one child continually appears on the wrong end of a power imbalance.

Mentor them to sort out disputes

Kids need the chance to sort their conflict out themselves, but sometimes they need a little coaching. They often invite their parents to take sides, which is usually counter-productive. Rather than trying to sort out who started an argument, focus on possible solutions, provide suggestions such as taking turns, giving way, bargaining, swapping or even walking away.

Encourage them to make up

Kids often get over disputes far quicker than adults. They can be squabbling one minute and cuddling up the next, so it gets tricky intervening sometimes. However there are times when you need to encourage a child to mend bridges with an aggrieved sibling. This can mean kids have to swallow their pride, admit that they may be wrong, make an apology or make some sort of restitution such as doing a special favour. This type of restoration means kids must take responsibility for their behaviours and is a sign of growing maturity.

Conflict and siblings tend to go together. While sibling squabbles can be annoying, they also offer parents great opportunities to help kids to handle conflict effectively, which is a great life skill.

Related webinar

Our school has a membership with Parenting Ideas. As part of this membership, you can access the below webinar recording 'Sibling Fighting' at no cost.

Spend an hour with renowned parenting educator Michael Grose as he explores the weird and wonderful world of sibling relationships. He'll help you develop an active approach to resolving sibling disputes so they learn valuable life skills.

To redeem:

1. Click this link: <https://www.parentingideas.com.au/parent-resources/parent-webinars/sibling-fighting-what-to-do>
2. Click 'Add to cart'
3. Click 'View cart'
4. Enter the voucher code HARMONY and click 'Apply.' The \$37 discount will then be applied
5. Click 'Proceed to checkout'
6. Fill in your account details including our school's name to verify your eligibility. These are the details you will use to login to your account and access your webinar and resources
7. Click 'Place Order'

This voucher is valid until 5 May 2020.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.