

**School Newsletter 0520, 9 April 2020**

## Coming Events



- Tuesday 28 April : Pupil Free Day – THERE ARE NO LESSONS ON THIS DAY and teachers will not be available
- Wednesday 29 April : Term 2 commences

## Principal's Message



### Message from the Principal

Wow! How quickly everything is changing. It is hard to keep up and a bit overwhelming. I know there has been a lot to get your head around. It has certainly been a steep learning curve for us all. And I am sure it will continue to be for a while. Thank goodness we have a holiday coming up – time to relax, regroup and catch up on everything we have had to push to the side.

Firstly, I apologise for the volume of information coming to you from all directions and in multiple formats. We have had to try every avenue we can to get the information out to you while so many systems are crashing under the volume of traffic. We hope our SmartLink and website issues are sorting themselves out and, moving forward, we will have a more robust and reliable communication system. It is actually an exciting time too as we try to create engaging, fun and interesting learning opportunities and new routines.

SmartLink have just advised us that they are investing heavily into enhancing the app and website design to enable them to cope with heavier traffic. To ensure that the upgrade works according to plan, they require some server shut down times to test and re-test developments. The KPS website and app access will not be accessible for a maximum of 3 hours from 7pm Friday 10 April to 5pm Sunday 12 April. If you attempt to access the app or website during this time and find that it is not available, please just try again after a few hours and the upgrades should then be completed.

Just a summary of what communication and education tools we have in place to help you get your head around it all.

- The *SmartLink* – for whole school communication.
- The website – a storage site for all our school information and important Department links too
- *Class Dojo* – the communication system for what’s happening within each class from K-3 particularly. This is controlled by the class teachers – however, the specialists and Admin team have just been added into each class – this is a new world for these new arrivals to *Class Dojo*. (Some staff, who already use apps such as Seesaw might also continue to use these for some communication because you and they are used to it – but Dojo is now the main app).
- *OneNote* – the communication system for what’s happening within each class from Years 4-6. It is really just a filing system for documents your child will use. This is brand new to all the teachers and most of the Admin.
- *Vimeo* – this is just like YouTube and it is our tool for making video clips available online. Your web browser should read those with no need for you to do anything else. Please don’t expect high production values – we don’t have the time or expertise for that – it is just aimed at providing some mini lessons. So, we know we have tripped over our own words etc – but we have deliberately chosen not to be too fussy (it was a big enough mental hurdle to accept we had to film ourselves) – one take is all that we are giving ourselves in order to complete the volume of work we have. These clips are just for our KPS students – not for general sharing.
- *Zoom* – an online meeting forum the teachers will use to talk ‘face-to-face’ with their classes in real time online. You can download the software quickly and simply just before your first scheduled meeting. An invitation with a link will be emailed to you or posted on *Class Dojo* or *OneNote*. The schedule of class meetings are also published below.

CLASS WEEKLY: ZOOM					
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	Thursday	FRIDAY
8:30 AM					
9:00 AM	K4 (Emma Williams )	K1 (Cate Smith)	R2 (Kate Dash)	P3 (Katherine Herne)	P1 (Alicia Kavanagh nee Taylor)
10.00 AM	R8 (Karen Bernic)	R3 (Megan Mehnert)		R1 (Debb Dellar)	S3 (Jack Powers)
11.00 AM					
11.30 AM		R5 (Emily Hasson)	R4 (Stephanie Dixon)	S2 (Maria Andrews)	S4 (Ashley Griffiths)
12.30 PM				S1 (Callen Toner)	K2 (Kim White)
1.30 PM					
2.00 PM	K3 (Sheree Ramsay)	R9 (Siobhan Bushen)	R10 (Di Filmer)		

These are not perfect solutions to the issues we face now, but they were the most widely used, (such as Class Dojo) or the easiest/best quality (e.g. Zoom) or the app that gave us the most functionality (e.g. OneNote). However, our aim was to keep what we had, as much as possible (to reduce what we needed to learn), while trying to improve our ability to teach online. It isn’t, necessarily, what we would have chosen if we had the time to shop around and plan things out. It is also not a full learning management system. However, we feel it is the minimum we need to move forward in offering learning online, especially considering we have had no time to teach the students how to use it (that will be the aim of our first lessons).

We have focused heavily on thinking positively and having fun with this new situation and I hope you have too. With that in mind, we have uploaded some fun story time books (four of them) that the staff all got involved in reading. They are some quite dramatic readings of Andy Lee's "Don't Open this Book" series. You can find them on our *Learning at Home* webpage or by clicking here:

1. *Do Not Open This Book* by Andy Lee <https://vimeo.com/403983236>
2. *Do Not Open This Book Again* by Andy Lee <https://vimeo.com/user111330056/review/404835093/a603cfbb7a>
3. *Seriously Do Not Open This Book* by Andy Lee <https://vimeo.com/405326282/9f3c9131a3>
4. *Definitely Do Not Open This Book* by Andy Lee <https://vimeo.com/405426268/a81ef3bce9>

Thank you to our EAs for filming these, to all our staff for appearing in these, and to Claire Backhouse for editing them on the fly. Thanks also go to Professor Chris Brook for helping us get ready for online learning and for working with us on our other Vimeo clips (he had a green screen and tripod – new technology for us).

We have made mistakes (sorry about the Consent2Go emails – they automatically address you personally – but were general emails to the whole school – and you can't reply to them as the reply goes to Consent2Go) and systems have crashed (the reason for the Consent2Go emails – *SmartLink* and the website crashed) and we are learning from all of it. We seem to be putting out a lot of spot fires and sometimes a solution to one problem creates another problem. Thanks for your understanding and patience. I can guarantee that we will make more mistakes – we are all learning. Please remain patient, positive and ... take a deep breath. You and your children will make plenty of mistakes – it's impossible in these times, especially, to avoid them. However, hindsight is a wonderful thing.

We have attached the recent letters from the principal, in case you had trouble accessing them. Click to see the letters dated [31 March 2020](#) and [2 April 2020](#) However, the most important one is regarding the three modes of learning for Term 2. Please read that [principal's message](#) and respond, ASAP, using the form sent out by Claire Backhouse. It is vital we get a response from you in order to ensure we know what mode of learning your child(ren) will be using – especially if it is not online. Online is what the majority, so far, are choosing, and that is great, for us, because it requires the least additional resourcing. Face-to-face (at school) requires the staffing – so we need to know how many staff to divert to this – and work packages requires staff to put these together and postage/transport – so we need to know to whom we must provide these.

Also, as we will be commemorating ANZAC day differently this year, we have put a link to five ANZAC stories for kids on our *Learning at Home* webpage. We have also invited you to join with the WA Massed Choir and sing their special song (a link supplied on our *Learning at Home* webpage too – scroll to the bottom) on the big day.

Below is my first attempt at using Vimeo – it is a holiday message. So, Happy Easter and Happy Holidays!

( VIDEO CLIP ACCESSIBLE BY DIGITAL VERSION OF NEWSLETTER )

PS – check out our unplugged holiday ideas on our *Learning at Home* webpage and sent out in your work packages.

### **Message from the Student Councillors**

The student councillors have shared their thoughts on home learning so far. It is nice to know that everyone is in the same boat – trying to work out how to do this ‘learning at home’ – so here are some tips and diaries from our student councillors.

These can be found at <http://kensingtonps.wa.edu.au/index.php/learning-at-home/> then scroll down till you get to ‘Messages from our Student Councillors on their *Learning At Home Experiences*.

### **Keep our School Safe**

During the holiday period, school premises are more vulnerable than usual and can become targets to a small number of offenders.

If you live near the school or are passing by, please keep an eye on our grounds for us. Listen for unusual noises; look for suspicious vehicles and notice if groups of children or teenagers are congregating around the school. Your involvement can really make a difference in preventing damage to our school. I urge you to report any suspicious activities to :

SCHOOL WATCH – 1800 177 777

POLICE – 131 444

*Bronwyn Jones*  
**PRINCIPAL**

**Just for a laugh**

if the schools are  
closed much longer  
parents will find a  
vaccine before the  
scientists

**Congratulations**



**World's Greatest Shave**



Zac in Year 6 recently participated in the World's Greatest Shave and got a new haircut! Zac raised over \$500 for cancer research – well done, Zac!!



The South Perth and Manning Libraries have been working hard to put together some online resources including digital Story Time and Rhyme Time.



Check out South Perth Library's digital Story Times and Rhyme Times:

<https://southperth.wa.gov.au/community/libraries/library-services/digital-storytime>

Borrow a book or read a story from our online eBook databases:

<https://southperth.wa.gov.au/community/libraries/elibrary>



All you need is a library card and you can sign up online.

*\*The above community advertisements are for your information only and should not be taken as endorsement by Kensington Primary School.*