



Narrabundah Early Childhood School

Learn • Develop • Nurture

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Week 10, Term 1, 2020

Principal's Message

I want to begin this newsletter by acknowledging the incredible amount of work our educators have undertaken in the past two weeks. They have had their profession turned on its head and have had to learn a whole new way to perform the job they know and love. This is no small task. We won't lie there have been tears but more than anything true grit and determination. We have faced technology problems time and time again but at each step of the way educators have battled through and been focussed on finding solutions and work arounds.



Early childhood educators value hands on, concrete learning experiences and know that children respond well to such learning. Our current challenge is to stick to our beliefs and philosophies in an online environment. This week you will have been sent a trial learning plan. Educators are working really hard to be creative and to not provide hours of screen time. Your child will see a range of videos of their teachers reading and providing 'tutorials'. Your child can watch these as needed. Educators are also providing opportunities to respond to questions, create text, write and engage in thinking tasks. Educators will contact your child each week to connect, check in on their wellbeing and to try and address any key questions/issues. Our educational plans will improve as we get more experienced. Families will have the opportunity to comment

on the learning plans and provide feedback to educators. I encourage you to be thoughtful and constructive with your feedback.



In these uncertain times, technology problems are guaranteed. The whole world is currently on the internet. Please contact your child's teacher with questions and they will do their best to help troubleshoot or pass the issue on to the Directorate's IT support services. Remember your child's teacher is a teacher, NOT an IT expert. Solutions may take time. We will all be doing our best.



We know there have been many emails in your inbox recently. In term 2 we will largely use Storypark to communicate with you all. Learning plans will be accessed via Storypark. However to access teacher videos we will have to piggyback off another online platform, Google Classrooms. Information was sent home to families at the end of last week and on Monday for our 3 year old Butterflies with instructions on how to access Google Classrooms. I have attached this information again to the newsletter.

Thanks to families that participated in our 'drive through' *learning at home pack* collection or have taken the time to drop in to the front office to pick up their child's pack. At this stage the front office will be open between approximately 8.30am and 3.30pm on most days. If you would like to collect your pack during the stand down period you may like to give Audrey a call before driving out to NECS.



We look forward to working with families in term 2 to explore new ways of learning. We know that during this time there will be many competing priorities. It is not school's intention to create unnecessary pressure at this already complex time. Your children will continue to learn incidentally. Learning happens in many ways and will look different for each child over the coming months. The health and wellbeing of children is our priority and we are committed to ensuring that their learning continues. This is truly a partnership between home and school in a way that we have never seen before. If you choose to engage in the learning offered by educators you may engage in tasks ten minutes here and there, on some days of the week. Please do not try and replicate a school day, it will not work, and it may contribute additional stress and pressure to your household. A sample few days may look like this:

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Morning routine e.g. get dressed, make bed etc.	Morning routine e.g. get dressed, make bed etc.	Morning routine e.g. get dressed, make bed etc.
Outdoor activities	Watch a teacher video	Go for a walk
Check in with teacher	Outdoor activities	Check in with learning activities
Reading time	Reading time	Use the ACT Education Directorate Resource Library to read an online story
Complete a task offered by the teacher	Complete a task offered by the teacher	Creative time – make something

Unstructured play	Brain break, get moving	Unstructured play
Complete a task offered by the teacher	Play a board game	Complete a task offered by the teacher
Creative play e.g. draw, listen to music, create	Complete a task offered by the teacher	Make an obstacle course

If you are trying to work from home the above schedule may be IMPOSSIBLE. **Do what works for your family.** Try and connect with your child. Engage in some play. Eat lunch together. Whatever works for your circumstances. Our educators will also be navigating this new territory in their households, with children, families and competing demands. I would encourage you NOT to compare yourself to what others are doing. Each house and each family is unique. It is essential that we all be kind and be patient with each other.

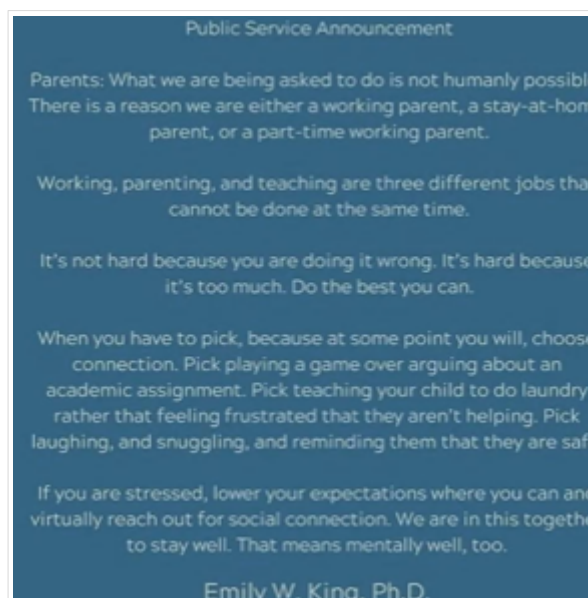
Yesterday, the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Yvette Berry announced that for term 2, ACT public schools will be moving to remote learning.

This means most students will undertake their learning from home. For children who cannot stay home, supervision will be provided at a small number of school sites, by the Out of School Hour Care staff. Families who require a safe and supervised site for their children at the start of term 2 should register their interest. Please complete the registration form by Friday 17 April 2020. You can access the registration form here: <https://bit.ly/actsupervisedcare>

An updated letter from the Education Directorate today - 9 April.

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/319/t2_email_to_families.pdf

I'll finish with an image I saw online last week which I think sums things up beautifully.



Look after yourself and each other

Julie

Red Grass parrots classroom

https://necs.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/318/red_parrots_newsletter_w10_t1.pdf

2021 Enrolments



Enrolments will soon open for places in preschool, kindergarten, year 1 and year 2 at NECS

for the 2021 school year.

Online enrolments for the 2021 school year will open from 6am on Tuesday 28 April 2020. This is for all students from Preschool to Year 12. Enrolment applications made between 28 April 2020 and 5 June 2020 will receive an offer from 27 July 2020. Applications made after 5 June will receive their offers later in the year.

If you have any questions regarding the enrolment process please do not hesitate to give us a call on 6142 3828 or email info@necs.act.edu.au

If your child is currently enrolled in preschool (Green Grass Parrots, Red Grass Parrots, Kangaroos or Koori Butterflies) at Narrabundah Early Childhood School (NECS) there is no action to take. Your child's enrolment 'rolls over' to Kindergarten at NECS unless you enrol elsewhere.

There are many benefits to being enrolled at an Early Childhood School. The Early Childhood Schools were created as a result of research that found there were many benefits to delaying a child's transition until they are 8 years old (year 3). Research shows that children are more resilient, are more confident and

have better developed learning behaviours to manage a transition at eight years of age versus at age five.

Early Childhood Schools were established as 'hubs' for the community. At NECS we have a range of services on site for families including:

- Early childhood education and care for babies to preschool (provided by our childcare partner, Communities@Work).
- Outside School Hours Care for children enrolled in preschool to year 2 (provided by our childcare partner, Communities@Work).
- Community Coordinator, Donna Seal, to support families and improve access to external agencies.
- ACT Health provides a child health clinic at NECS that operates by appointment.
- ACT Health provides midwife appointments at NECS.
- Mary Ford, Case Manager, from Woden Community Service is at NECS weekly and available as a resource for families to access support, resources and information.
- Move and Groove is a fun music program for children aged 0-4 years and their parents and carers facilitated by a Music Therapist.
- Lego Club provides a great opportunity for students to engage in creative play during lunchtimes.
- Community Breakfast – a healthy breakfast in the school hall run twice per term.
- Circle of Security Parenting Program an 8-week program designed to enable parents and caregivers to understand and recognize their child's emotional needs.
- Culture Club is a wonderful opportunity for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children from preschool to Year 2 their parents and carers, staff and special guests from the Indigenous community to come together and celebrate Indigenous culture.
- NECS is a registered Sporting School which connects children with community sport and promotes gross motor skills and outdoor activity.
- NECS is a SunSmart school that promotes sun smart education, behaviour and environments.

These partnerships have been established to provide ongoing support to families during the critical early years of parenting. Research clearly shows that families that have access to support help children to engage more positively at school.

We would love to work in partnership with your family to provide high quality care and education for your child/ren. Please email us at info@necs.act.edu.au or call 6142 3828 if you have any questions. Unfortunately due to current COVID-19 pandemic we are unable to conduct tours at this point in time.

Communities at Work

Since the start of the year, our children and educators in the out of school hours care have been engaging in educative conversation about many topics. Some of these have been the weather with the fires and smoke first, then the hail and wind, then the scorching sun and now the virus. Children demonstrated their abilities to retain new understanding of information and to be able to apply these to their play and choices by listening and providing questions.

Their inquisitive nature allowed them to connect with and explore their natural environments showing appreciation for the school ecosystem as well as the constructed resources provided.

During their participation in before and after school care, a variety of learnings through experiences were offered. These included art and craft tables with beading, paper dolls, drawing and painting, designed to give the opportunity to express creative thinking, imagination and social interactions.

Children used cooperation and demonstrated respect towards each other's opinions and ideas while engaging with different construction resources like mobilo, lego, magnets and bionicles to make race tracks, robots and towers.

Children also engaged in exploring their sense of identity by engaging in face painting.

By sitting down with an educator for face painting they continued taking on different roles while engaging in dramatic play.

The children also engaged in play with the puzzles. This enabled the children to engage in play using their cognitive capacities and allowed them to identify shapes and explore problem-solving. The children showed resilience when finding the puzzles difficult and continued trying to finish the puzzle.

Narrabundah also welcomes our new Program Coordinator Priya who joins us for an exciting start of our school holiday program next week, with lots of fun experiences organised.



Access to Google Classroom

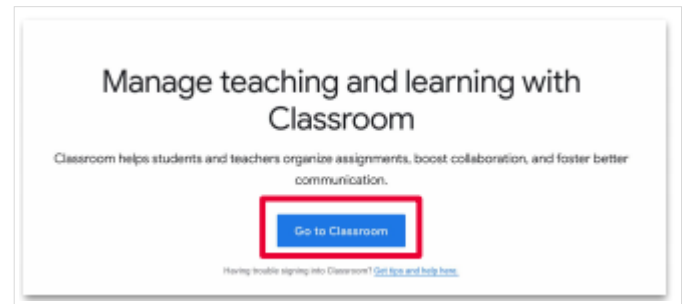
GOOGLE CLASSROOM PARENT INFORMATION

Google Classroom is designed to help teachers and students communicate, collaborate and access documents, videos that will be linked in student learning plans on Storypark.

FIRST LOGIN FOR STUDENTS

Go to <https://classroom.google.com>

The first time you arrive at the google classroom website (if you have never logged in) you will see a screen like the one below.

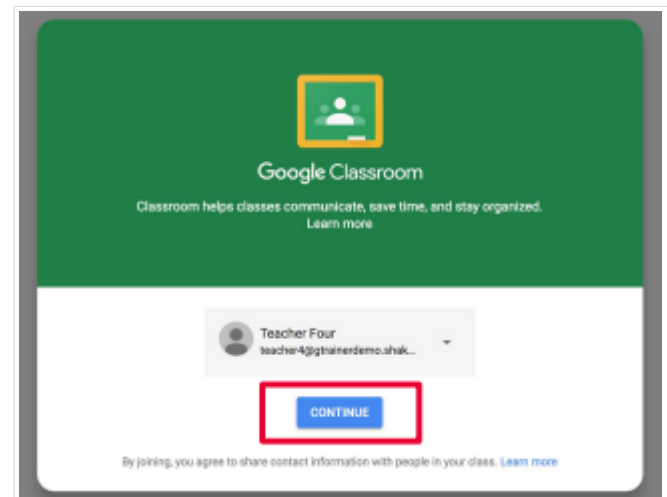


Click "Go to Classroom" button.

LOGIN

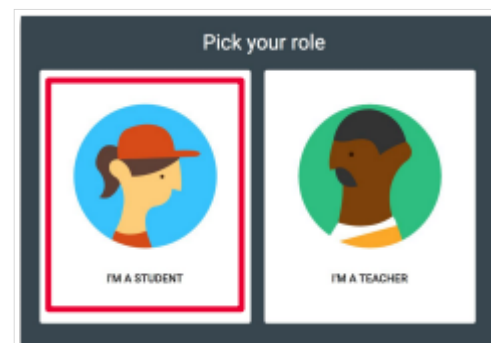
You will then be prompted to login with the email and password provided by the class teacher.

After you enter your email and password, click "Continue"



Select your role

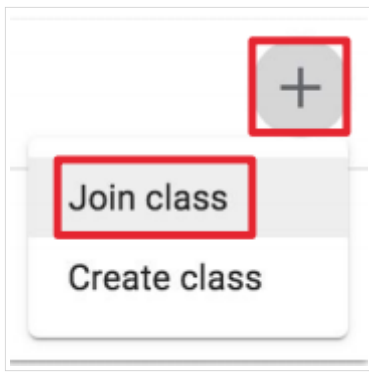
Click on the "I'M A STUDENT" button as your role so you can join your classroom.



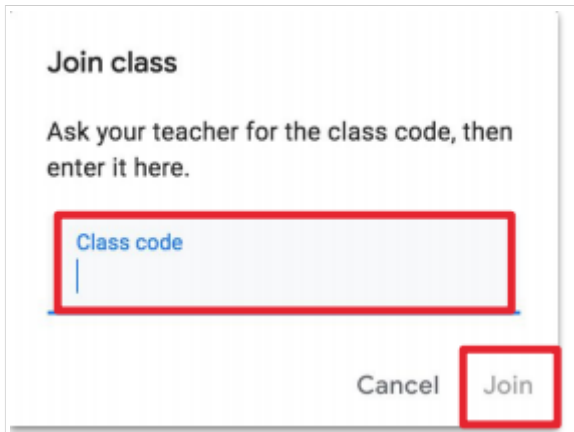
JOIN A CLASS AS A STUDENT

Join Class

Click the + (near the top-right of the page) and select "Join class" to join your teacher's class.

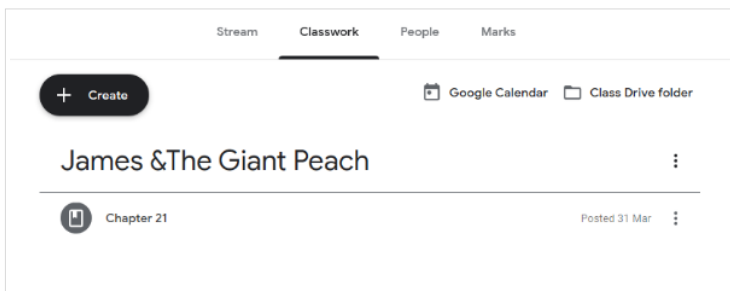


Enter the class code given to you by your teacher. Then, click “Join.”



STUDENT CLASSWORK

The Classwork page is where you will find your class materials. View your work, turn in status, due dates, and grades for your class. View your class calendar, including due dates for assignments. View your Class Drive folder in Google Drive. Your teachers may organize your task by topics or materials. Those topics will appear to the left. You will also see topics as headings over your task or materials.



Using Technology Safely

As the children at NECS are very young they will clearly need support from someone to help them to access their learning on Storypark. The 'Family Guides' on the ACT Education Directorate website has some great information on effective home learning, esafety and wellbeing. We would encourage you to have a look.

<https://sites.google.com/ed.act.edu.au/act-home-learning/family-guides>

If you have children that are under 5 the eSafety Commissioner's early years resources will help you to start conversations about online safety at home.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/blog/covid-19-keeping-schools-and-learning-safe-online>

Families are asked to help facilitate connections between teacher and child. Invitations and notifications will be sent to you in advance of the online check-in or phone call. If your child is online we would encourage them to use their device in a public, visible place in the home e.g. the dining table, the lounge room etc. where there is an adult nearby.

Just as we have positive behaviours for learning at school we expect the children to engage in positive behaviours for learning at home in order to get the best learning outcomes and connect with others in a healthy way.

Some suggested guidelines are:

- Being active in some learning throughout the week.
- Being ready for learning and properly dressed e.g. not in pjamas, inappropriate clothing when online.
- Not being in front of a screen all day, many activities can be completed offline.
- Interact respectfully and safely when engaging in online communication with peers or educators.

Cybersafety statement

As schools around Australia move towards online learning it is important to factor in the online safety of staff, students and the wider school community. Please follow the link below for advice on staying safe online.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/blog/covid-19-keeping-schools-and-learning-safe-online>

ACT Education Directorate Online Learning Resource

As you know, a Learning Resource Library was made available last week to support parents and children learning from home during pupil free days. The ACT Education Directorate has been working hard to ensure this resource is as engaging and useful as possible. You can access the resource via the ACT Education website <https://www.education.act.gov.au/> or use the following path <https://sites.google.com/ed.act.edu.au/act-home-learning/resources-to-support-home-learning>.