



Tuesday, 24 March 2020

Dear College Families,

We are committed to supporting each family through this pandemic. Learning is important for students, and their well-being is also important as we move to a 'learning from home' platform. The transition to online learning may be challenging for families. You will need to think differently about how to support your child/ren; how to create structures and routines that allow your children to be successful; and how to monitor and support your children's learning. Some students will thrive with learning from home, while others may struggle.

Please understand that your child may complete their learning tasks in less time than they would in a day in the classroom and that this is OK.

The ten guidelines provided below are intended to help parents think about what they can do to help their children find success in a home learning environment.

1. Establish routines and expectations

Parents need to establish routines and expectations for learning at home. Please make use of the suggested daily timetable provided in the Google Drive folder shared with you via email. Feel free to print this out and keep it on your fridge or another place for easy reference.

2. Define the physical space for your child's study

Your child may have a regular place for doing Home Learning under normal circumstances, but this space may or may not be suitable for extended periods of learning times. We encourage families to establish a space where your children will learn most of the time. This should be a public/family space, not in a child's bedroom so that you can support them as needed. It should be a place that can be quiet at times and have reliable Internet connection. The space should allow parents to monitor their children's learning.

3. Communication and feedback

Teachers will communicate with parents through NWCC email accounts and with students through Class Dojo. Teachers will share a video via Class Dojo's 'Class Story' for students to watch at the beginning of each day.

Students will choose one activity to submit to their Class Dojo portfolio each day unless a specific activity is requested to be submitted by teachers. This will be noted in the list of learning activities provided each week. Students may like to submit a journal entry, photo, video, or drawing. Teachers will provide feedback on student's daily submissions via Class Dojo.

If parents require further clarification on set tasks, please contact your child's classroom teacher directly via email.



4. Take an active role in helping your children process and own their learning

Parents are encouraged to talk through the daily schedule with their child so that they are aware of the day's activities before they happen.

In the course of a regular school day, your child engages with other students or adults frequently. These social interactions include turning to a peer to exchange a thought or idea, participating in small or large group discussions, asking questions for clarification, collaborating in group activities, and countless other moments. While some of these social interactions will be re-created via online learning tools, others will not. Human beings learn best when they have opportunities to process their learning with others. It would, therefore, be helpful for you to be available to discuss ideas and prompt your child with questions to help them along their way.

As much as possible, encourage your child to take ownership of their work; don't complete activities for them, even when they are struggling, guide them through the challenge.

5. Establish times for quiet and reflection

While circumstances change, God doesn't. He remains loving, sovereign, trustworthy and good. He is our rock and our fortress. Students might like to use one of these scriptures - Psalm 23; Psalm 27; Psalm 46; Romans 8:31-39; Philippians 4:6-9; 1 Peter 5:6-7. Daily morning devotions and Chapel will also allow time for student reflection.

6. Encourage physical activity and/or exercise

Make sure your children remember to move and exercise. This is vitally important to their health, wellbeing, and their learning. The suggested daily timetable has allocated time for a morning walk from 8:30-9:00 am as well as suggested times for outside activities at recess and lunch. It is especially important to ensure our K-2 students have regular physical breaks throughout the day as this enhances students' ability to focus.

7. Remain mindful of your child's stress or worry

Talking to your whole family about what is happening is helpful. Understanding the situation will reduce their anxiety. Your role in simply listening and being available to pray with your child can't be overestimated. It is incredibly important! Listening is a beautiful gift in a busy world. In listening we show God's love in a real way. You may also like to allow your child a creative avenue to express any concerns or worries they may have. For example drawing, painting or building something.

8. Keep your children social

The initial excitement of online learning at home might fade quickly when students start missing their friends, classmates, and teachers. Help your children maintain contact with friends by making use of a telephone or video phone call. Remind your children to be polite, respectful and appropriate in their communications and to represent College values in their interactions with others.

The Esafety Commissioner has provided the following advice to parents:

[COVID-19: an online safety kit for parents and carers](#)

Yours sincerely,

Tara Waller
Head of Primary Years