



Term 2, Week 3

May 2020

Welcome to Term 2

Dear Families,

Welcome back to what has turned out to be a slightly less than normal, beginning to Term Two! We have a few families who remain at home and continue to support their children's learning during the current pandemic that is sweeping the globe. For the overwhelming majority of our students (over 97%) who have returned to school to engage in face to face learning, staff have worked and continue to work really hard to ensure the school experience is as close to 'normal' as possible during these challenging times.

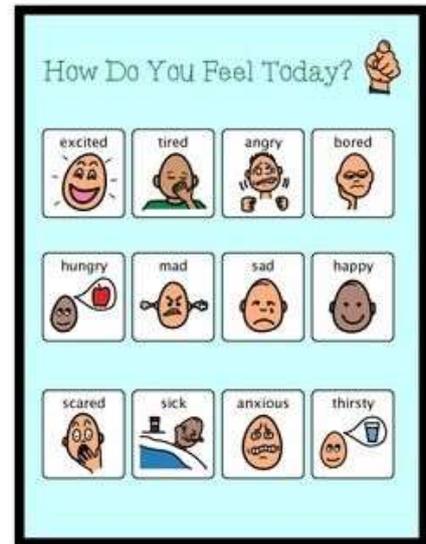
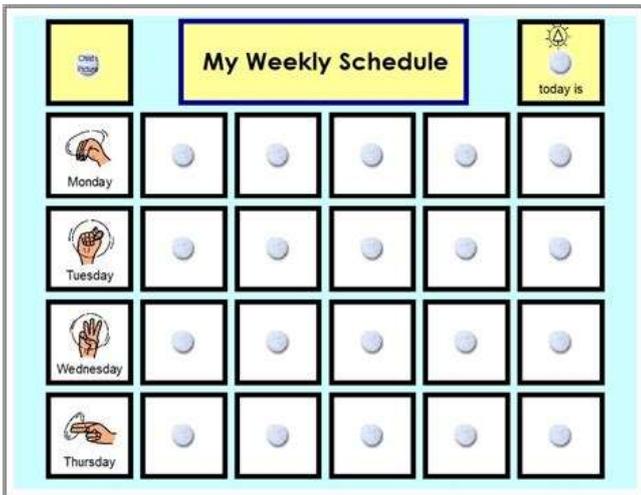
We would like to take this opportunity to thank our families for your understanding and support of the conditions placed upon our return to school, in particular the arrangements for not entering the classrooms and buildings. As Principal, I could not be prouder of our children, parents and staff for the manner in which you have adapted to this change, with a minimum of fuss –despite the less than perfect weather of late!

We are extremely fortunate to have received additional resources from the Department for Education to support cleaning in our school. We have two cleaning sessions each day (one begins around 9:30am and the other after school) where all high touch surfaces including toilets, playgrounds, door handles, light switches, handrails, shared resources, classroom desks and chairs are cleaned. As well as the increased cleaning regime, students and staff are doing a fantastic job maintaining good hand hygiene, using both the soap and sanitiser available across our school.

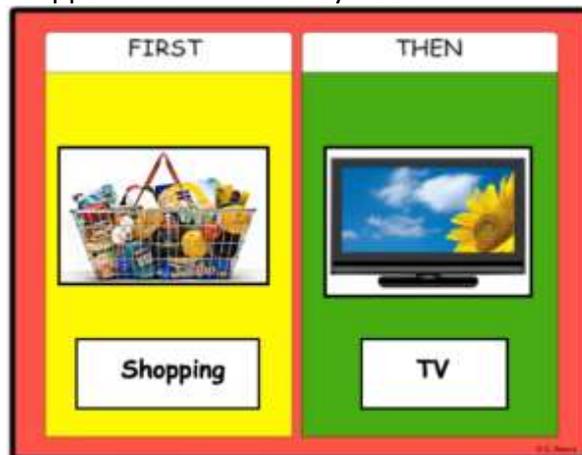
INCLUSION

Many students with a disability struggle to communicate especially when they are feeling overwhelmed with either their emotions or the environment. Here at school we use visual supports to help our students to communicate when they need it most. Visual supports can be words, pictures or a mixture of both. Every class at Mount Barker South Primary School has a visual timetable and many students have their own personal timetable. We have visuals that students can use to describe their feelings and emotions and we have visuals that can be used as a reminder of our expectations at school.

These visuals can also be used at home with great success. Most of our students like to know what is going to happen in their day and in what order and this is true if they are at school or at home, a visual timetable stops many of the 'when is it time to...?' questions as our children do not have to worry about what is coming up in their day when it is all in picture form in front of them.



Helping our students to recognise their emotions is essential for them to begin to self-regulate. If they are able to point to a picture that describes how they are feeling when they are too overwhelmed to talk then we, as adults, are better able to support them when they need it.



Visuals can also be used when you are asking your child to engage in a non-preferred activity such as shopping. The use of the first – then visual helps your child to see that they have to go shopping first (a non-preferred activity) but then they will be able to watch television (a preferred activity). This visual can help prevent meltdowns as your child is able to visually see what will happen next.

STUDENT ILLNESS POLICY

Mount Barker South Primary School is committed to ensuring the health and safety of all students, staff and the wider community. To demonstrate this commitment, we ask parents and students to adhere to the following recommendations and procedures.

Any child who is unwell should not attend school.

If a child displays symptoms of an infectious illness, they should be kept home from school to avoid transmission of the illness.

This can include, but is not limited to, fever (temperature above 37.2°C), nasal discharge, cough, sore throat, sneezing, earache, vomiting or diarrhoea.

If a child at school is displaying any of the symptoms mentioned above, or displays additional symptoms that staff deem may represent an acute illness, then they will have the power to remove that child from the classroom to prevent possible transmission of an infectious illness.

Parents will be contacted to collect the child as soon as possible and the child will remain in isolation in a safe area of the school until someone is able to collect them. If a parent or caregiver is unable to be contacted, the child will remain in isolation until they are collected and will not return to class.

In the event that a child is severely unwell, staff may deem it appropriate to phone an ambulance and seek medical attention for the child.

Unwell students will need to remain at home until they are well enough to return to class. If a student has been free of fever (temperature below 37.2°C) for **72 hours** and has improved and feels well again, they may return to school. If they continue to display any symptoms such as coughing or sneezing, they may need review by a doctor prior to returning to school to deem that they are fit to return and no longer contagious.

We ask that all children and visitors to the school wash their hands and adhere to strict hygiene principles.

We thank you for your assistance and understanding in valuing the health and safety of our families and community.

Updated 13th May 2020

Reviewed and approved by the MBSPS Governing Council.

Children and young people are at the centre of everything we do.

ARTWORK OF KINDNESS

At the end of term 1, students across the school attended their STE(A)M lessons with Miss Cate Litchfield. During the lessons, students made posters for the residents in different nursing homes in the Hills.

In return, residents of Eldercare in Mount Barker have sent back a letter and some of their own artwork for the students to enjoy. Miss Litchfield, and now other staff members, are continuing to foster a beautiful pen pal system where letters and artwork flow between our students at Mount Barker South and to the residents of Eldercare. We hope the residents are as thrilled to receive the letters and artwork as our students are.

If you are a family learning from home, you can still join in! If you would like to create a piece of artwork or letter that can be sent via mail, then please do so. You can send it via SeeSaw or post to the school and we will include it in our pack to the nursing home.



FUN FRIDAY

Each week, we encourage our students at school and home to take part in Fun Friday. In week 2, we hosted our first Fun Friday, where the theme was Crazy Hair and WOW, was there a buzz around the school! We truly have some very creative students and families and we can't wait to see what's in store in for future Fun Friday's.

Week 3	Comfy clothes	Week 4	Fancy dress costume
Week 5	Wacky socks	Week 6	Pick a decade – 1920s to 1990s
Week 7	Pyjamas	Week 8	Fancy Hat
Week 9	Mismatch	Week 10	Casual clothes



Welcome Back to School Police Visit

On Monday of week 1, we had the pleasure of a Mounted Police visit! Our surprise visit was extremely kind of SAPOL and well received by students and staff. The purpose was simply to welcome all students back to school!

The officers started by introducing themselves and their horses and then it was over to the students for questions. The questions asked were thoughtful and included questions such as, "how long has South Australia used Mounted Police and why do we have them?"

The visit concluded with the horses galloping around the oval while the children cheered them on. Thank you very much to the Mount Barker Police station for organising this exciting visit!



NAPLAN Cancelled in 2020

As you would be aware, it is this time of the year our Year 3 and 5 students would ordinarily be sitting their NAPLAN tests online. In light of the disrupted start to the school year caused by COVID-19, the state and federal government agreed to cancel these tests in 2020.

While important, these tests have never been able to assess all of what makes each Mount Barker South Primary School student exceptional and unique. The computer that marks these tests does not have any way of knowing that your child may love to sing, or is good at drawing or are often called upon to teach others how to use a particular computer program or app.

They have not had the opportunity to see the way your child is able to dance with grace or speak confidently to large audiences. They don't know that they are the one person all their friends count on to be there for them when they are sad. They don't know about the hours many of our students spend participating in sports, helping mum and dad with younger brothers, sisters and cousins.

There is no way that a series of online tests could possibly show that your children are caring, thoughtful and that every day they try and do their very best.

That is because these attributes cannot be tested. So don't despair not receiving a NAPLAN Report for your child this year, it will have only told you how they did on that test, but will not have told you everything their teacher could. It wouldn't tell you how much your child has improved on something they once found difficult, it wouldn't have told you how your child brightens their teacher's day and it definitely wouldn't have told you how amazingly special your child is.

We are extremely proud of the effort all our students put into their learning, as well as the attitude they bring to class each and every day – we don't need NAPLAN this year to validate that.

Term 2 Reports

Your child will receive two written reports each year; in terms 2 and 4. Term 2 reports will go ahead and you should expect to receive them in week 10. We will be sending these home electronically, likely email or Seesaw, as we work towards moving away from paper resources.

Special General Meeting

At this year's Annual General Meeting the previous minutes from 2019 were not endorsed and approved. To address this matter and ensure compliance the Governing Council will be holding a Special General Meeting on Wednesday 24th June 2020 at 6:00 pm. Families are invited to join via Zoom. If you'd like to attend please notify the front office and we'll provide the Zoom link and a copy of the previous minutes prior to the meeting.

Lunch Orders

We apologise if there has been any confusion around lunch orders. Unfortunately, we are not accommodating orders through Hillbilly Chicken or Delicia at this stage. We will inform you when this changes.

MRS SCHIPPER'S GENDER REVEAL



On Thursday, our year 1 students were invited to take part in Mrs Schipper's 'Gender Reveal' announcement!

Each student had their chance to vote - boy or girl? The majority vote was for a girl...

The black balloon filled with coloured confetti was popped by Mrs Schipper and Matilda revealing our students' correct predictions - **A GIRL!**

We would like to congratulate Mrs Schipper and her family on the exciting news and can't wait to meet their beautiful new addition in September.



Kind regards,



Cassie Manton
Principal

Emma Castleton
Senior Leader of Inclusion

Todd Manton
Wellbeing Coordinator

Social Distancing on Fun Friday Crazy Hair Day

Parenting through COVID-19

FREE

Parenting Webinar

Presented by: Parenting and Family Support Team - Department of Human Services

Join us for a 1 hour **FREE** parenting Webinar on:

-  How to connect with your child/ren through routines and traditions
-  Technology safety and use
-  Talking to your children about COVID-19
-  Understanding and managing your child's behaviour



To register, click on the link below or type the link of your preferred date in your web browser

 **Thursday, 7 May**  7pm
 https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2H304aIMQ6irPQ-kasIEw

 **Saturday, 16 May**  10am
 https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DmKBpg4YS36kF8OWrWSVPA

 **Wednesday, 20 May**  1.30pm
 https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_opEuH_z3QiOgEW0f3gNISw

 **Friday, 29 May**  10am
 https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5ucjYleWQYmjBlbCCd2QAO