



# Karuah Public School

## NEWSLETTER

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*Respect, Responsibility, Pride*

Term 1 Week 10

31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

### Principal's Report

Dear Karuah School Community,

At present, all NSW public schools are still open, with significantly reduced numbers. The NSW Government has now taken additional and stricter measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 through the community. To do this, parents and carers have been strongly encouraged to keep their children home if possible for personal safety measures. The government does understand that some people may not be in a position to provide supervision for their children at home. This could be because they are delivering frontline services to the community as an essential worker. Schools currently remain open for the important supervision of their children as a prioritised service to ensure that they can continue to carry out their work and support the continued function of society. From this week, all Karuah Public School staff were directed to commence transitioning into their working from home rosters, unless they are providing a critical function that cannot be delivered remotely. **This means that Karuah Public school is still open - but with minimum staff supervision.**

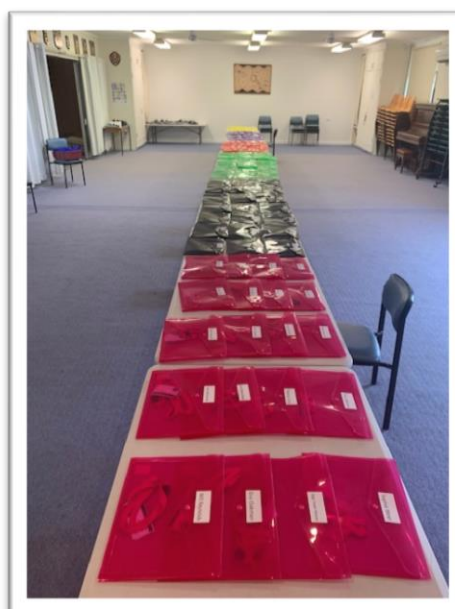
There is no doubt that these past weeks have been challenging and stressful for everyone – students, families and staff. As we continue to respond to the virus, we must understand that many in our community will be facing many difficulties and we need to be mindful of their emotional wellbeing. I am so proud of our students, staff and families during this unprecedented time and I am personally overwhelmed by how we have all been able to pull together so efficiently and effectively. In particular, our entire school team have been working incredibly hard to support our students every day - putting in a tremendous amount of time and effort to prepare quality online and paper learning resources to be ready for day 1, Term 2.

The most important message of all right now, is a gentle reminder to reflect on the fact that our children are just as confused and worried as we are. They not only hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before, nor have we. What children need right now in these

uncertain few weeks is to feel comforted and loved. This might mean that you modify what you believe to be your need at the moment to create a perfect home learning environment with regimented workbook schedules - and try to use this unsettling time at home with your children to calm them, talk to them and to focus on your family unit as well.

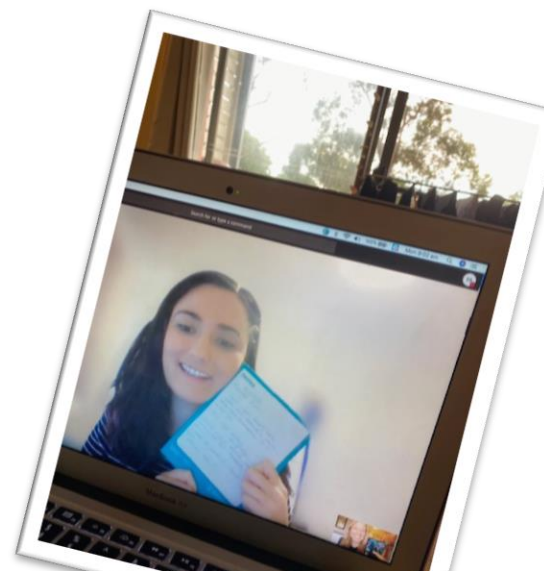
We have consciously taken this all into account. A lot of parents have requested the maintenance of extra school work for regularity in the family and to be able to continue their children's learning all day and every day. However, the current packages you have at home were packages designed to be completed over an hour or two each day, with rich child/parent discussions, reflections and care taken in presentation to last until the end of term. As an optional extra, the use of the hyperlinked Department of Education program home learning packages was added to supplement your need for any extra activities - [education.nsw.gov.au/learning-from-home](http://education.nsw.gov.au/learning-from-home) [#LearnFromHome](https://twitter.com/LearnFromHome) - many of which do not require a computer. Also supplied in the letter that came home with the packages were links to online sites for the kids to utilise as a recommended list for further additional resources. I will attach these again to this newsletter. May I also add that the value of reading can never be underestimated - both by your child and to your child. Reading is the branch for all other literacy learning.

Another key purpose of these packages - was to give the teachers the extra time during the day (whilst also supervising children) to develop extensive, rich and high-quality Term 2 teaching and learning programs for our kids as distance learning packages. Our teachers have been working tirelessly on Term 2 packages and quality, individualised learning packages, systems, process and teaching/learning delivery and community access options ready for the first day in Term 2.



This has been a massive challenge for all teachers across all of Australia to achieve in a very, very short amount of time. Actually, it has been done in a matter of days. We have managed to effectively deconstruct then reconstruct everything that we know and do every day into new ways and systems of learning overnight. This has been a massive ask for teachers, each having families of their own to deal with at night. We should truly

applaud them. Added to this, they have been researching and collating data on community resources and needs, making many phone calls and planning for staff rosters, logistics for learning next term and...grappling with the everchanging rules and regulations thrown at them each day by the government and Covid-19. Please be assured: the packages that you have at home right now will look nothing like what they will be getting at the start of Term 2. Learning from the first day back will reflect as close to possible normal classroom activities through new learning platforms and resources. More information will be communicated in regards to this towards the end of the holidays and closer to the new term.



Mrs Robards and Miss Blair working collaboratively on Term 2 programs - from home!

### Device Loan Out

If your family requires an extra device and has Wi-Fi service or mobile phones for hot-spot access, we are also currently offering a school laptop through a loans system. Please contact the school ASAP if this would assist you for learning at home. A decision about whether schools will return to normal operations after the holidays will be taken in line with the latest advice from the Government and we will keep the community informed. Our last day for Term 1 will be Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April (Friday is Good Friday). Term 2 commences on April 27<sup>th</sup> for staff (at this stage).

**Please do not worry about your children regressing in their learning** based on the recent '*One Project*' packages that went home to finish off Term 1. When Term 2 commences, regardless of whether we are back at school or learning from home, teachers will be ready and well equipped. They will be armed with tight learning schedules ready to guide you and your children into a new way of learning with the necessary course adjustments and differentiation to meet the individual learning needs of students and their journey through the curriculum.

Karuah Public School teachers will be experts at this and our school will continue to shine and be the best place on earth to be. x

We promise!

Toni Lyle

Relieving Principal



KARUAH PUBLIC SCHOOL

# RECOMMENDED ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORMS

## READING

### SCOOTLE

Scoodle - a national repository that provides Australian schools with more than 20,000 digital resources aligned to the Australian Curriculum.

### STORYLINE ONLINE

Developed by The Screen Actors Guild Foundation, Storyline Online features accomplished actors and addresses reading some of their favorite children's books. Each story comes with a free Activity Guide and can be viewed on YouTube or SchoolTube. Rainbow Fish, Wilfrid Gordon Macdonald Partridge, and To Be a Drum are just a few of the books available.

\* SCHOLASTIC LEARN AT HOME

### freechildrenstories.com

Founded in 2008, freechildrenstories.com operates on the simple principle that children's development is paramount. Their mission is to offer traditional, meaningful storytelling to every child, parent, or teacher around the globe with access to the internet, for free.

### International Children's Digital Library

Discover books from around the world at the International Children's Digital Library. The free site does not read the books aloud, but students can read them independently during Read to Self or free time. This is a great site for extension activities when learning about different regions of the world and can be used effectively into the middle school grades.

### ABCya!

Children can listen to short stories read aloud to them as they follow along with the highlighted text. ABCya! has a variety of educational games in addition to the featured stories. Free resources and materials are available for grades K through 5.

## WRITING

### STUDYLADDER (FREE)

Mathematics, English, Science and more! A comprehensive program of online educational activities for students aged 4 to 12, mapped to the curriculum.

### STORYBIRD

Create beautiful books to share online and in print.

- Age: 6
- URL: <https://www.storybird.com>

### IDIARY FOR KIDS

Excellent journal-writing tool for creative kids.

- Age: 7
- Devices: iPad

### STORYBUILDER

Very cool app asks questions, creates stories from answers.

- Age: 7
- Devices: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad

### SCHOLASTIC NEWS KIDS PRESS CORPS

Kid reporters (and readers) get schooled in journalism.

- Age: 10
- URL: [www.scholastic.com/kidspress](http://www.scholastic.com/kidspress)

### SPELLCITY

Improve knowledge of vocabulary words with spelling practice from VocabularySpellingCity. Our engaging phonics games for kids help students become

## MATHS

### KHAN ACADEMY (FREE)

Lessons and activities for all areas of numeracy. No catch and an <https://www.khanacademy.com>

### PRODIGY (FREE)

Lessons and activities for all areas of numeracy. Safe for children to interact always free.

### STUDYLADDER (FREE)

Mathematics, English, Science and more! A comprehensive program of online educational activities for students aged 4 to 12, mapped to the curriculum.

### SCOOTLE

Scoodle - a national repository that provides Australian schools with more than 20,000 digital resources aligned to the Australian Curriculum.

## OTHER KLAS

### STUDYLADDER (FREE)

Mathematics, English, Science and more! A comprehensive program of online educational activities for students aged 4 to 12, mapped to the curriculum.

### SCOOTLE

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### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS

Facts and information, made for for kids.

### ABCYA!

Games for all areas of curriculum

CONTACT: [KARUAH-P.SCHOOL@DET.NSW.EDU.AU](mailto:KARUAH-P.SCHOOL@DET.NSW.EDU.AU)



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**TERM 1 2020 CALENDAR—PLEASE PUT IT ON YOUR FRIDGE AND ADD EVENTS WHEN THEY ARE ADVERTISED IN THE NEWSLETTER**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday/Sunday
Week 1 / Jan 27 Australian Day Holiday	28 Staff Development Day	29 Yrs 1 - 6 Return K 2020 Best Start Assessments	30 K 2020 Best Start Assessments	31 Kindergarten Start	Feb 1 2
Feb 3 Assembly 2.30pm	4 Swimming Carnival Yr2 - Yr6	5	6 Kinder's first school day photo	7 Swimming Carnival back up day	8 9
Feb 10 Assembly 2.30pm Scripture commences	11	12 P & C meeting Karuah RSL Club 4pm	13	14	15 16
Feb 17 Assembly 2.30pm	18	19	20	21	22 23
Feb 24 Assembly 2.30pm	25	26	27	28	29 Mar 1
Mar 2 Assembly 2.30pm	3	4	5	6	7 8
Mar 9 Assembly 2.30pm	10	11	12	13	14 15 P & C Trivia Night @ Karuah RSL Club 7pm start
Mar 16 Assembly 2.30pm School Cricket @ Paterson Homework Centre 3-4pm	17 Aspire Training Yr 5/6 Afternoon Sports 3-4pm	18 AECG Meeting @ Tanilba Bay PS 10am start Zone Soccer trials ~ Tomaree	19 Harmony Day ~ 12:15pm start	20	21 22
Mar 23 Assembly 2.30pm Homework Centre 3-4pm	24 Afternoon Sports 3-4pm Yantin Kalabara Project ~ Yrs 3-6	25	26 P & C Mufti Day ~ Gold Coin Donation	27 School Cricket @ Raymond Terrace against Dungog PS	28 29
Mar 30 Assembly 2.30pm Homework Centre 3-4pm	31 Afternoon Sports 3-4pm	Apr 1 School Photos 	2 Tae Kwon Do ~ School Hall	3	4 5
Apr 6 Assembly 2.30pm	7 Anzac Ceremony @ Civic Theatre ~ Yrs 5/6	8 Easter Hat Parade P & C Easter Raffle	9 HRHS Enrichment Class Applications close	10	11 12