

From the Principal



Daniel Frew

Remote Learning

Remote learning will be continuing at this stage until Tuesday 27th July.

Lower Plenty will continue to provide on-site supervision for students where parents are authorised workers and cannot make arrangements for the supervision of their children and for children experiencing vulnerability.

This period can be a stressful time for both parents and students. While we will be calling all parents, if your child is not coping, please make sure to ring the school and let us know so that we can help.

While we are providing morning WebEx meeting and activities for students to complete, it may well be that for your child, doing 30 minutes of reading and some IXL maths is all they can do. Please be aware that that is ok as well. Our first priority is for your child's wellbeing, we can support the learning side of things when we return to school. So, while our preference is for every child to be online and ready, we are also aware that some days it may not happen. If it is becoming hard, just let us know so that we can provide support.

Education Support Staff

A few parents have been asking about the role of the Education Support Staff in the school. At the moment the school has employed two support staff, Jess Bull and Lisa Telburn. Lisa and Jess work at the school three days per week.

Lisa and Jess are employed using funding from the Program for Students with Disabilities. This provides funding for students where a child has been identified as eligible in one of seven disability categories.

While Lisa and Jess will work with students who are funded, they will also provide support for other students within the classroom. This is often by supporting small groups or by working with a group so that the teacher can work with focus groups.

The aim of the program is to support student's inclusion and to ensure that they are not being disadvantaged by being at school. The work of Jess and Lisa is directed by the teacher and tailored to the needs of each child. While it is sometimes one to one support, in most cases Lisa and Jess will work alongside a few students.

Homework

The school's homework policy identifies the homework that is provided by the school for students to complete. The purpose of homework at Lower Plenty is to:

- Complement and reinforce classroom learning
- Foster study habits
- Support the development of independence
- Be set without impinging on reasonable time for family, recreational and cultural pursuits.

We will be going through the expectations of homework with students when they come back to remote learning.

In Foundation to Grade 2, students should be doing no more than 15-20 minutes of homework each night. In Grade 3 and 4, that is extended to 30 minutes each weeknight, and in years 5 and 6 nor more than 45 minutes each weeknight.

The most important element of homework is nightly reading. In Prep to 2 this means nightly reading for 15 minutes and practicing their high frequency words and letter sounds.

In grade 3 and 4 they should be reading for 20-25 minutes, and in grade 5 and 6 they should be reading for 30 minutes. More than any other homework, nightly reading before bed is the number one thing you can do to support your child to become a good reader. If you have time to ask questions about their book then that is a great support.

After reading students need to be spending some time practicing their number facts. In the juniors this is counting forwards and backwards, initially by ones and then by two, 5's and 10's. Then moving onto numbers that make 10 and quick addition facts to 20 and 100.

In the 3 to 6 areas children should be working on their multiplication times tables. Ideally by the end of grade 4 students should know all of their tables from 1 to 10.

The school will be setting IXL tasks for students to complete each night to support the development of number facts.

There may also be times that we ask students to some project research at home as well. In the main though we need students to be reading nightly and practicing their number facts.

A letter will go home with your child next week explaining homework so that you are aware of the expectations at each year level.

Curriculum Day

At this stage the Curriculum Day is still planned to go ahead on the 30th July. We have already moved the date once and it is important that we get this work completed so that we can identify the future direction for the school.

Dates

Term 3	
30 th Jul	Curriculum Day
2 nd Aug	Camp information evening (online)
3 rd Aug	F/1 100 Days of School
4 th Aug	Little learners – Pre Prep
10 th and 11 th Aug	Waste wise van
12 th Aug	P-6 Cultural Dance Incursion
12 th Aug	Little learners – Pre Prep
20 th Aug	Trivia night
24 th Aug	Little learners – Pre Prep
23 rd to 27 th Aug	Book Week
1 st to 3 rd Sep	Grade 3 to 6 Camp
31 st Aug	Father's Day Stall
7 th Sep	Student Led Conferences
8 th Sept	Little learners – Pre Prep
15 th Sept	Evening Tabloid Sports: 4 to 5pm
17 th Sep	Last day of term: 2:30pm finish

WHY READ FOR 20 MINUTES A DAY?

STUDENT A	STUDENT B	STUDENT C
20 MINUTES PER DAY	5 MINUTES PER DAY	1 MINUTE PER DAY
1,800,000 WORDS PER YEAR	282,000 WORDS PER YEAR	8,000 WORDS PER YEAR
SCORES IN THE 90 TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS	SCORES IN THE 50 TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS	SCORES IN THE 10 TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS

**So, how do you make a child a better reader?
READ MORE!**

Term 4	
11 th to 27 th Oct	Swimming
2 nd Nov	Cup Day
Tue 9 th Nov	Prep Transition
Thu 18 th Nov	Prep Transition
Wed 24 th Nov	Prep Transition
Mon 29 th Nov	Prep Transition
15 th Dec	Reports online

Book Drive

This was extremely successful, probably close to 1000 books. Teachers are putting many books into their classroom libraries. They will be sorted and many will also go into the library.

Thankyou's

Thankyou to Katrina and Amelia who came in over the school holidays and did weeding at the front of the school. Kate, Katrina and Michelle have also done work with the school books that were donated.

Thanks to James, Amelia, Kate Lee-Bartlett, Brooke, Janet, Erin, and Marty for all helping on the canteen roster.

Thanks to James, Gretchen, Michelle, Ailie, Janet, Amelia and Jane that have all been supporting reading as parent helpers in the junior classes.

Thankyou to Michelle Marie for her work organising the Book Drive.

Curriculum

All students will be looking at the concept of Social Justice.

Juniors are learning about celebrating difference. They will look at the meanings of traditions and games, food and music from different cultures.

Grade 34 are learning about the role of rules and laws in the community as well as disability and inclusion.

Grade 56 are learning about the problems facing children around the world and how we can make a difference.

Lastly

Everyone PLEASE be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home!

I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my Pepsi and we all agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine because she puts a different spin on EVERYTHING!!

Certainly couldn't share with the fridge cause he's been acting cold and distant!

In the end the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out!

The vacuum however was very unsympathetic – told me to just suck it up!

But the fan was VERY optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon!

The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip!!

You can just about guess what the curtains told me; they told me to "pull myself together!"

Good luck for the remainder of lock down, and please reach out if you need support.

Daniel

CSEF - CAMPS SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND



APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

If you applied for Camps, Sports and Excursions fund last year, the school will automatically apply on your behalf for the 2021 fund.

To support schools through COVID-19 restrictions, the Department has extended the deadline for schools to submit Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) applications to **Friday 13 August 2021**.

Any parent/carer with a valid Health Care Card who hasn't already received CSEF can apply. Concession card must be valid on Monday 12th July.

If you are new to our school and hold a current concession card please complete the form which can be found on our school website and forward a copy of your concession card to the school office.