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Issue No 8 – 26th March 2020

Dear Parents,

We had just 53 students at school today out of our usual roll call of 280. With this in mind we are working hard to set up a home based learning system that can support all of our students. I see a great opportunity in this for us to continue building strong connections between home and school.

We know that when parents work with their schools on educational goals, the results for the children are most positive. At the moment we want to build the foundation for effective remote communication with our children and families so that eventually we can engage the children more easily in teaching and learning activities. At the moment I see this continuing well into Term 2 and we will need to have strong foundations in order to keep learning happening.

So, for this week:

- We want to connect with your child, preferably online, or, if that is not possible, by email or phone. Kindergarten and Year 1 parents will be contacting children and parents to make a connection. Initially we want to see how you're going, share some stories and see how everyone is coping.
- Next, we need your child to complete and submit a task online to their teacher so their teacher can give them feedback about it – from a thumbs up to an audible comment to some instructions on what to do next. One step at a time, building on our knowledge as we go. All classes have SeeSaw and this is the easiest way for your child to respond to a set task by their teacher.

This morning it was great to see our Year 5 and 6's in a Zoom conference with their friends from home, those at school and their teachers. Year 6 were working on their Google Classroom tasks from home and school and a group of our teachers were involved in some professional learning in the library using Zoom and SeeSaw. The landscape is changing rapidly and people are working hard to adapt.

Yesterday, I sent a COMPASS message home with attachments to our video conferencing guidelines for students and families. If you have not already done so, please read through this. We will be using the Zoom application (www.zoom.us) for this purpose and are skilling our staff up at the moment. Many parents are already using this function and for those who are not, head to the previous link to find out more.

In amongst the learning and the change, we understand that many of you are managing children in different schools; working from home; dealing with job insecurity and suffering a little cabin fever. We are not expecting children to be working to a school timetable while at home. **They are to work around the family situation. Activities we set are for the week and teachers will indicate where they require tasks to be submitted.** Remember – the go to for these weekly tasks is the grade home learning page on our Weebly - <https://stjohnsnarrabeena.weebly.com/>.

We will be sending you details of instructions for our main apps and sites with a special letter from teachers tomorrow.

Stay safe, follow the directions we've been given by the authorities.

Sincerely,

Mark Bateman – Principal

AWARDS:

Given our reduced numbers, no awards this week to individual children but one big award to everyone who has been on board with home based learning and making the most of a dire situation.

