



Walkaway Primary School NEWSLETTER

**Newsletter #4
20th March 2020**

MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS

25th School Banking
8.30—9am

27th NCVISSA Swimming
Carnival
POSTPONED

APRIL UPCOMING EVENTS

1st Rm 4 Assembly &
Open Day
POSTPONED

8th School Banking
8.30—9am

9th ANZAC Service
Staff & Students only

9th Year College Sizzle
lunch
CANCELLED
END OF TERM

27th Public Holiday

29th Term 2
Students Commence



Dear Parents

As we quickly move towards the end of Term 1, Australia is facing challenging times. I want to reassure you we are receiving consistent updates on ensuring the safety of our school community members.

COVID 19

While the situation regarding the COVID-19 continues to evolve, the Department of Education sector has established plans and a team to schools. It is important that as a school community we apply common sense, factual information and a practical approach to COVID-19.

At school we are focussing on reinforcing hand washing and hygiene procedures.

At this point in time Walkaway PS is a safe place for children to be. We take the strictest of precautions by adhering to the guidelines of the health department.

We will keep you updated via Facebook and messages.

The following link provides parents with advice on talking to their child/ren about COVID 19:

[Schooltv.me Talking to our kids about COVID 19](https://www.schooltv.me/talking-to-our-kids-about-covid-19)

As advised via message on Tuesday, following the Department's advice, the NCVISSA committee has postponed the swimming carnival which was scheduled for Friday 27th March.

SOUNDS WRITE

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the Sounds Write Parent Information session last Thursday. Lisa Watts, a developmental psychologist from the Dyslexia Speld Foundation, was able to share interesting and extensive insights into language development and why the Sounds Write program is so successful. As we shared last year, our school data reflects strong growth in all our students due to our staff's successful implementation of this program.



We don't want anyone to miss out on these messages so I would like to share the following information with you:

- The Sounds Write program focuses on the sounds in words, individual sounds in the junior years and syllable sounds, prefixes and suffixes and morphology in the middle and upper years. It is important we are pronouncing the sounds accurately. The link below has a student modelling the sounds:

[Sound Pronunciation](#)

- Free sounds write course – to further build your understandings of the Sounds Write Approach, there is a free online workshop available. This introduces the initial code for the early years.

[Free Sounds Write Course](#)

Further information and resources will come out in the upcoming newsletters or via email.

As always, please call, email or come and see me should you have any cares, concerns or celebrations.

Kind regards,

Megan Barrett

Principal



Voluntary Contributions 2020 - \$50 per child

A reminder that school fees are now due.

Thank you to those families who have already paid.

Please make every effort to pay these as soon as possible.



Pay Your
Fees Online



Payment may be made by EFT

Please use your family name and school fees as reference

BSB: 016 650

Acct No: 340943005

Acct Name: Walkaway Primary School

Bank: ANZ Geraldton

ROOM 6

I hope you are all coping with the uncertain time we are experiencing. We are doing our best to put strategies in place to tighten up on good hygiene. It is very hard for little people to remember to cover their mouth and keep their fingers out of their mouth and nose!

As from Monday, the fruit routine will change. Instead of sending fruit/veg to share, could you please provide your child with their own, easy to eat container of cut up fruit, veg, dried fruit, crackers etc. Please make this a small snack that is easy to eat. Thank you for your cooperation with this change.

We are really enjoying our buddy time on Wednesdays and it's lovely to see the special relationships that are developing between the two age groups.

Copy Cats are busy learning their numbers, sounds and sight words. They are also having fun making interesting discoveries about water in Science.

The Kitty Cats are having fun with Humpty Dumpty and have made a very colourful Humpty that looks more like an Easter egg! They are also continuing to participate in activities to help them with their counting and number recognition, shapes and fine motor skills. Most of all they are learning to share, get along with others and follow instructions.

Some friendly reminders – Library day is Wednesday and the parent help roster is up. Thank you to the parents who have helped this week. It's lovely to have you as part of the fun.

Enjoy spending more time together at home while we work through the uncertainty of this nasty virus. Aren't we lucky to live where we do?! Mrs C

Cute quote – Kindies taking turns to make their Humpty.
“I haven't made my potato yet!”



ROOM 4

Week 7. Three more weeks to go! I am pleased to see that students are practising the washing of hands in a sensible manner and then moving quickly to class.

A reminder that **Mathletics** has been set up for students to continue with. There are units on the concepts we have covered. Please feel free to email me if you require your child's login details. Randolph Stow Narrative pieces can be worked on as well.

We continue to follow on with working on Narratives in class.

In maths we are working on multiplication of two digit by two digit numbers, with the Year 6 students moving on to multiplication using decimals.

It was lovely to have the low key Ambassadors Badge Presentation yesterday. Thank you Mrs Holliday for posting the photos on our school's Facebook Page. Thank you to those parents who could make it too.

Hoping everyone stays healthy and well.

Thank you for your support with your child's education.

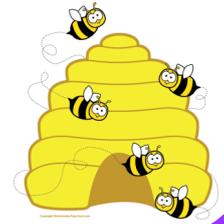
Working together respectfully makes for a wonderful Room 4.

Mr Clune



ROOM 1

- ◆ Things have been buzzing in Room One as we are learning all about bees! We are all looking forward to tasting some of the hard working bee's delicious honey.
- ◆ The students have been creating information books about insects on their I pads. They have taken photos, drawn and labelled diagrams and typed in some text.
- ◆ In Mathematics the focus has been on place value in Number and the names and characteristics of solid objects in Geometry.
- ◆ In English we have been developing phonemic awareness, reading and writing narrative fiction and producing simple informational texts.
- ◆ We have been learning all about Australia's ancient history. The students are making models to bring home at the end of term to share with their lucky parents!
- ◆ In between this, there has been a LOT of handwashing and coughing into our elbows. Hopefully we all stay healthy.



Ms Harman

ROOM 2

Hello Parents/ Caregivers and Children of Room 2

Last week we started our Guided Reading Groups and have been focusing on non-fiction texts about plants, landforms and festivals. By integrating a number of topics together in reading and writing tasks with Science and HASS we are able to interweave or 'interleave' our combined knowledge.

Sean Kang (2016) suggests that teaching topics in this way will aid retention in the long term, helping students to transfer what they have learnt to new situations. One reason for this benefit, suggest Yana Weinstein and Megan Sumeracki in their book *Understanding How We Learn* (2018), is that interleaving more closely mirrors real life.

This week we end our research on our chosen plant and learn to write a report. The year 3 students have been learning about Australian native plants whilst the year 4 students have been learning about plant adaptations in more exotic species. This integrates well with HASS as we have been learning about the geography of Australia, it's climate, biomes and varying landforms. Students will soon be able to identify similarities between Africa and Australia.

A few weeks ago we took a hands on approach to Geometry and made some 3D shape models. We worked in four teams to complete an interactive maths challenge. We had a very entertaining time as there was not a clear winner. Each team continued to think they counted all the vertices, faces and edges correctly (which they did not as they were eager to finish first) a number of times. A clear winner was *eventually* determined when the competitive two teams were able to calmly solve the problems and amend their errors.

The students were very proud of their carefully constructed creations. "It is much harder than it looks"

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and as the parent's pamphlet explained please feel free to contact me if you have any queries at all.

Best Wishes Ms Jones

