

## **BELMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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Principal: David Houghton  
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## **BELMONT BULLETIN**

**No.09 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Welcome back to Term 2 - a very different start for us all! We have been very proud of our school community who have done their best in the circumstances, to adapt to a new way of learning and our staff who are working hard behind the scenes also adapting to new ways of working. We remind ourselves here that it is very 'early days' and the progress we have made in just the few days since our official return, have given us confidence that we will be able to make this work for our families and importantly for all of our students.

**Compass** remains an important avenue of communication and **SeeSaw**, a second platform currently in use by all of our grades. If you are still having problems with either of these platforms please contact your class teacher, contact the office or send us an email at [belmont.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:belmont.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au). We'll persist until it is working for everyone.

Here at school we are investigating how best to connect our students through a video/live platform. The Department have an approved system that we are looking at closely. We will give our parents as much notice about this and we are confident once established, it will be a great way for our students to reconnect with their classmates and teachers in a safe and monitored environment.

In this edition of the newsletter, we hope you enjoy taking a look at some of the snaps that have been shared with us from family homes. We don't have room for them all we are sorry.

### **Remote Learning – Student Attendance**

Student attendance is critical for learning and remains critical during the period of remote and flexible learning due to coronavirus (COVID-19). Department of Education advice indicates that daily attendance is still required and expected for all students. However, monitoring of attendance will understandably need to be done differently to account for most students being at home and only some being on school sites.

### **Onsite Attendance**

For students who have met eligibility and been approved for onsite learning for full or part days, our onsite staff will mark the roll once students are signed in at school.

### **Remote Learning Attendance**

Our teachers are using Seesaw to provide a morning message and an afternoon message to all of our families. Through either the parent or the student log-in details, these messages need to be responded to for each student. This will either be by making a comment on the posted message or by liking the post. Our teachers will be monitoring the interaction of students on Seesaw each day and this will determine daily attendance.

**We do ask that all families aim to have responded to the morning message by 1.30pm every day.** Our staff will then mark the roll based on this information.

From next week we will also be enabling the SMS function in Compass again for 3.00pm each day which will send a reminder to any family that your child has been marked as absent on that day and you will be required to either:

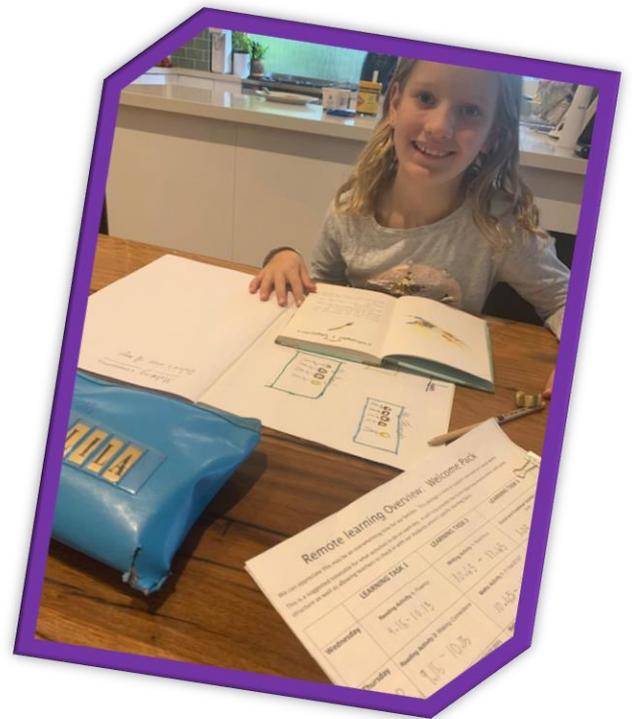
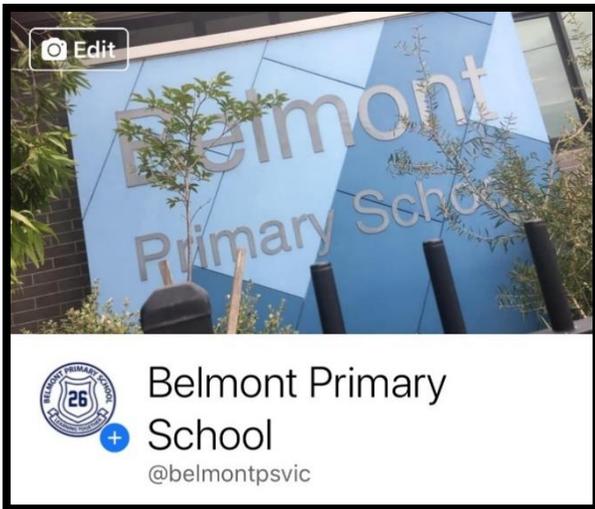
- a) add the attendance approval for the day or
- b) contact the classroom teacher via Seesaw to inform them that your child has been undertaking some learning tasks on that day.

We understand that there is still a number of families who are establishing family routines and balancing work and other commitments so at this stage, our attendance requirements are not about completed learning and work tasks but students engaging in the process of learning and maintaining the daily contact with their classroom teacher.

### **Student Absences**

If your child is unwell on any day or are unable to complete set learning tasks for the day for any other reason, please add an attendance approval note on Compass as is our usual school practice for any normal school day.

This is the same for students approved to undertake onsite attendance as well as those students learning remotely at home.



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

We have launched the Belmont Primary School Facebook page in the past few days. You can find us @belmontps.vic

The purpose of the facebook page is to celebrate our community, maintain connections through this period of remote learning and to provide a further communication channel between the school and our broader community. Main messaging will be provided through Compass but the Facebook page may be utilised to alert families to check the latest information there. The page will be closely moderated by a number of staff to ensure that it is a positive space that celebrates the wonderful community that we have.

Our advice to parents with questions or concerns will be to direct these to the classroom teacher or back through the school.

Please be gentle on us as we begin to build our school profile on this social media platform. It's yet another skill that Ms Liddle has taught herself in the past few weeks and there are still some areas to be refined.

Anyway....look us up and follow us online.  
[www.facebook.com/belmontpsvic/](http://www.facebook.com/belmontpsvic/)

*'We grow through what we go through....  
a day at a time.'*

Kind regards

The Principal Team  
(David Houghton Sharon Liddle)



## FROM THE ART ROOM

Hello to everyone from the art room you have when you're not actually in one! I hope you've all found lots of creative ways to occupy your time over the last weeks and by now of course you will all have received your home packs. You will have found a couple of art activities to do and I am busy working on others that can be done with minimum materials while still practising your skills. Don't forget to use the scrap book that you received for art if you need to as well as your other schoolwork.

Today I am including here another activity to have fun with if you are still looking for things to do. It's an I Spy or Spot What arrangement that you make using interesting things that you can find around your house or even in your garden. It can be random like mine (see the photo) or be theme based. When your arrangement is complete, write a list of things that have to be found and don't forget to take a photo as well.

Here's mine with a few of my questions.



Can you spot four ballerinas and a tiger that hangs on a tree?

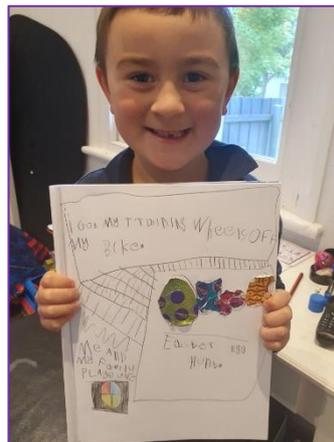
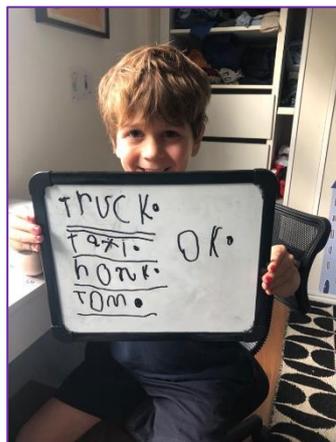
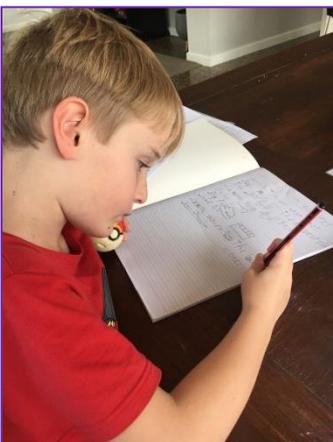
Can you spot four hearts and a tiny piece of willow pattern?

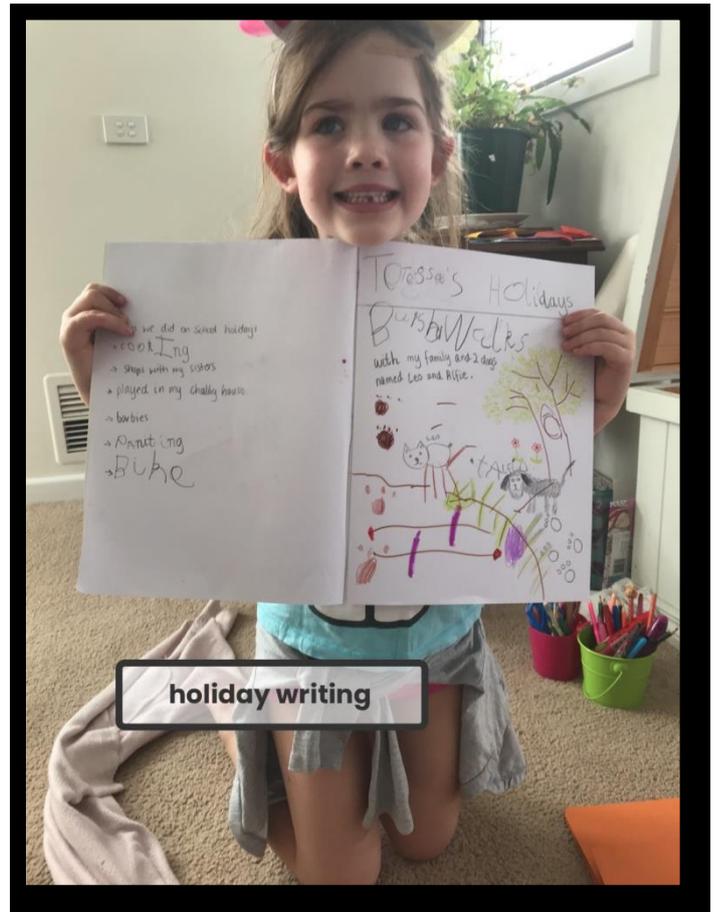
Can you spot a devil Bart Simpson and two little foxes?

I'm sure you get the idea. I had so much fun making this today that I'm going to find another batch of things to make another one, perhaps this time with a theme. Maybe give it a go and we can share the results.

**Yvonne McDonald**

Art Specialist





We love seeing your pictures from home. Please continue to send them through to [belmont.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:belmont.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) or via Seesaw to your classroom teachers.