**Learning at home**

Dear parents/carers,

We understand that having students working at home for an extended period of time may seem challenging, and at times even overwhelming for parents. Be assured that the teachers of Lihir International School are committed to supporting you and your children during this period. Please email teachers with any concerns or questions you may have.

The following information will hopefully be of assistance.

**How can I help my child learn when I don't know the subject matter?**

Teachers have tried to set work that students will be able to complete with minimal support and guidance, dependent on the year level. However, at times parents may feel unsure of the content. Please remember, it’s okay to not know the subject. This is a great time to be a role model for being curious and how to learn. You might say, “I don’t know all the answers myself, let’s find out the ways to learn this material.” If you or your child are struggling a bit, remember that’s natural! Learning is a process of “productive struggle.”

At times, tensions or frustrations may arise (for both the parent and child). Remember that sometimes a child needs help with learning a new skill, and teachers don’t expect them to ‘get it’ the first time. It may be worthwhile to leave that activity and focus on something else and then come back to it at another time. Make a note to let your child’s teacher know.

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Many students are most fresh in the morning, so that’s the best time for them to work on their English and Maths.

High school students can follow their school timetable as to time allocations. Primary school aged children may benefit from working in roughly one-hour long blocks of time, so that they can concentrate and complete tasks.

You can help your children continue their learning away from their classroom by asking questions such as:

* What are you learning today?
* How will you plan your day? Do you need support to create a timetable?
* What materials do you need today?
* How can I help you today?
* What was one thing that was difficult today? What could you do if this difficulty comes up again? What strategies could we put in place?
* What went well today? Why? How can you make sure these successes happen again?
* How are you feeling? Do you need help planning tomorrow to make sure it is successful? Is there anything you need to check-in with your teachers about?

You may need to adapt these questions, depending on the age of your child and their level of independence. It is important to keep communication lines open with your child to ensure their learning is continuing and that they are coping with the alternate learning environment.

**Setting up a learning space**

Create a quiet and comfortable learning space. A space for extended learning should be a family space, rather than a bedroom. Your children may have a regular place for doing homework under normal circumstances, but this space may not be suitable for working in for an extended period of time. It should be a place that can be quiet at times. Remember to help students organise their books and learning equipment so books are not lost or damaged.

To support your children to continue their learning away from their classroom, establish routines and expectations. Use the weekly plan / information from your child’s teacher/s to help plan and organise each day across the week. For students in Year 3 and up, encourage them to be part of the planning process.

**Staying healthy**

***Remember to include periods of physical activities and breaks between learning.***Schedule recess and lunch breaks and maintain healthy eating habits and drinking lots of water.

**Other activities – Try to break up the reading/worksheets with other activities that you and your child can enjoy such as:**

Games – Play board games or cards

Crosswords and puzzles

Design, make and create: Make and construct things out of reusable materials

Cooking

Cultural activities

Art

Media activities – eg using Paint on the computer to create artworks; creating a PowerPoint on a topic

Independent own choice activities – doing more research about a topic (or hands-on eg sewing, knitting etc) that either the child is interested in or perhaps you, as the parent, are and would like to share with your child

**Online resources – Encourage students to access educational websites**

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

<https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/home>

readingeggspress.com.au/

https://www.mathletics.com/au/

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.typingclub.com/>