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**Headteacher**

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## Polite, kind and helpful to everyone!

Dear Children,

We hear you are working so hard and we continue to be super proud of you. Your teachers have also been working very hard on the next phase of our home learning support for you. All of the grown-ups are missing you lots and we know you are missing us too. We needed the first few weeks to settle into our new way of school and now we are ready to add to our provision.



Starting next week, the grown-ups will begin to put onto the website stories with set activities and a daily challenge for you. We are very excited that you will be able to have a story with us just like we normally do at school. Remember reading and listening to stories is so important. This skill will help you with all of your other learning too! We hope you enjoy them and can't wait to see your finished activities when we return to school.



There has been a fabulous new resource re-launched this week, which is the BBC Bitesize learning tool. Whilst we do not want all of your learning on a screen there is some lovely learning on here, which your teachers may start to direct you to look at from time to time. Likewise please have a look with your grown-ups too.



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

Grown-ups we had a brilliant parent forum last week and we are so grateful for your lovely feedback about the balance of activities we are sending home and ensuring there is no pressure put on to you or your little ones. We have taken on some of your ideas and adapted our provision with some of your requests:



Loading to the website - We were asked if we could load the learning onto the website on a Friday. As of next week we will be in a position to be able to do this. There were lots of reasons as to why we had to choose a Monday, however now we are in a better place this is now a change we can make for you.

So next week you will have learning added Monday and Friday but the Friday is for the following week. Therefore, you can now look on a Friday or still on a Monday the choice is up to you.

Some parents have also asked for some more worksheet based tasks. We are not going to change the main style we are delivering as this is how we would be working in school. This also ensures all families can access and participate in the learning. We will have live on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April a separate

additional learning section with printable sheets, should you wish to use them. If you do not use them with your child, they will not be missing out on any practice learning. This it is just a different way that the tasks are presented.

Marvellous Me - Parents of Critical worker children have asked for an update of what learning they have joined in with at school so they can carry out the other pieces at home. This has been actioned as of last Monday.

We reminded everyone that you can email the info account with your child/rens best piece of work if you would like to share. This will be passed onto the teacher.



We would like to remind you about some useful sites that can support you supporting your little ones at home:

- [www.twinkl.co.uk/offer](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/offer) and enter the code UKTWINKLHELPS

- <https://www.gonoodle.com/> - this is a fun and interactive website to keep children active and improve their wellbeing

- <https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga> - Yoga and mindfulness for children, aimed at developing strength, balance and confidence

- <https://abcdoes.com/home-learning/> - 50 ideas to try at home

Keep shinning little ones! We carry you in our hearts and thoughts constantly (and big ones too).

Mrs Gregory



Mrs Watts



and



PS,

During the parent forum we know lots of you are anxious about the time your little ones are missing school. The Local Authority shared this news article with us and we thought it would be good for you to read too.

**Does missing a term due to COVID-19 really matter? What happened to student results after the Christchurch quake**

**ABC Sunshine Coast**

By [Kathy Sundstrom](#) and [Rob Blackmore](#)

Posted 16 Apr 2020, 10:22pm



**PHOTO:** [Noah Galway's school results didn't suffer even though he missed eight months when his family travelled Australia two years ago.](#) (Supplied: Sharon Galway)

**Chris Atkinson spent two years persuading his teenage son he needed to be at school to learn, and just when he agreed, COVID-19 happened.**

Key points:

- Schools in Christchurch, New Zealand, were closed for weeks following the 2011 and did not have access to online learning available now
- Student results actually went up in the final exams and high school students did not drop out
- Education expert Professor John Hattie says Australian students could lose a whole term out of the school year without falling significantly behind international counterparts

The dad from Queensland's Sunshine Coast is among many concerned their child might fall behind or disengage with schools only open for supervision to essential workers and vulnerable students in term two.

But John Hattie, a leading educator and Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) chairman, has good news for parents like Mr Atkinson.



**PHOTO:** [Laureate Professor John Hattie says students will recover quickly from the COVID-19 crisis.](#) (Supplied: John Hattie)

Professor Hattie was the adviser for the New Zealand Qualifications Authority that oversaw school examinations after the devastating [Christchurch earthquakes](#) of 2011.

Schools were closed for weeks and most students did not have the opportunity for online learning or discussion with teachers.

But results did not suffer and high school students did not drop out.

"The students' performance actually went up in the final exams," Professor Hattie said.

He said the difference was teachers focused on "what has to be learned" instead of getting through a lot of curriculum.

'Gains in test scores' observed following schooling gaps

It was similar after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in 2005, when students missed up to seven weeks of school.

Again, he said students "recovered quickly and actually began to see gains in test scores".



### **Longest school year is in Australia**

Professor Hattie said Australia had the "longest school year and school day" of any country in the world.

Even if 10 weeks were removed, he said "students would generally still be getting more classroom time than students in countries like Sweden, Finland and Estonia", which consistently outperformed Australia in maths, science and reading scores.

This did not mean students should not embrace online opportunities for term two and Professor Hattie said it could be a chance to better outcomes.

"You have to be amazed what teachers have done to turn the whole system around so that kids can work at home doing various things," he said.

"But my message is 'let's not get stressed about it'.

"When we get back to the old normal the recovery will be reasonably quick."