

Term 3 | Week 6 | Thursday 19 August 2021



Message from the Principal

As I compile our Week 6 write-up for the term, I honestly did not predict, two months ago, that we would still be in lockdown at this point in time. As we head towards Week 7, which we originally anticipated being able to return to school, I continue to check the daily COVID-count with trepidation and concern. Whilst the NSW Premier and the Department of Education as yet has not made any official announcements, our school is engaged in collaborative preparation as we consider what it may look like to remain in a period of Learning From Home until the end of Term 3. Our continuing conversations remain wholeheartedly centred on the needs of our students, considering learning needs as well as emotional, physical and social needs.

As a school, we are acutely aware of the cumulative impact this lockdown is having on us all. We recognise that, for some students, the longer this lockdown continues, the harder it may be to stay motivated and engaged. We recognise the demands on families in regards to technology, Wi-Fi, physical space, time and energy, as parents juggle working from home with supporting their children whilst Learning From Home. For some students and parents, there may be an increasing sense of feeling overwhelmed or a sense of growing disengagement. We continue to seek to support our students by offering positive engagement experiences, reinforcing positive teacher-student relationships and considering innovative ways of keeping students connected to learning and to peers.

This week, we've provided a range of optional PBL rewards, as we recognise the phenomenal effort that our students are showing, each and every day, as they do their best during Learning From Home. Like adults, our children will fluctuate in their level of energy, enthusiasm, persistence, resilience and concentration, particularly during LFH as they adjust to different routines and the blurring of "home" and "learning" time. But we know that, even on the low energy days, our children are trying their very best, and we acknowledge and appreciate this. Our PBL reward days this week are for all students and children could opt in to as many sessions as they wished, including "bring your pet to zoom" sessions, cooking

with Mrs Hutchens, family trivia and a scavenger hunt. It's been great to see the students engaging and having fun, connecting with friends and peers. As teachers, this makes us so happy: we just want to see smiles on the faces of our students as they engage in a positive, shared experience. We miss our students and we care deeply about them during such a time of challenge. So next week, in addition to our normal Wellbeing Wednesday activities, we are focusing on supporting our students through additional opportunities for positive connection and engagement. We will be offering our students a range of optional activities that they can participate in, including dress up options, STEM activities, design and make tasks, imaginative and skills-based activities, whole-school zoom art and encouraging random acts of kindness. We encourage families to support their children in engaging in these shared experiences: the activities offered are known strategies that help to support and maintain wellbeing and support student engagement. As such, inclusion in these activities are just as important as curriculum-based learning tasks.

One of the best ways we can keep our students engaged is to continue to provide meaningful, relevant learning opportunities that match the planned scope and sequence of Term 3 learning programs for each class. Our teachers aren't providing 'busy work': they are working tremendously hard to translate planned classroom activities into tasks that can be completed whilst students are learning from home. As we adapt and re-write learning plans and activities into a format that is accessible, we continue to consider additional ways that we can support all our students to engage fully and with success in these tasks, without overloading students or having them spend too much time on a device. As we cautiously prepare for further weeks ahead, we will be adapting and adding to class timetables new support measures, for the benefit of our students, whom remain at the centre of all our decision-making and at the heart of all that we do.

Stay safe and well.

x From Mrs Wardlaw

Assembly and Principal Awards

Congratulations to the students who received Assembly and Principal Awards.

Assembly Awards – Weeks 3-4

KG	Harrison, Alfie, Leo, Goldie, Cedar, Hannah, George
1T	Kloe, Lennox, Georgette, Bay
1M	Florence, Morgan, Xanthe, Luke, Josie, Stevie
1-2H	Braxton, Daisey, Holly, Mae
2R	Isabelle, Ethan, Olivia M, Olivia P, Lillybell
2-3P	Finlay, Lucy, Nate, Flynn
3B	Sebi, Nathaniel, Che, Penolope

Principal Awards – Weeks 3-4

KG	Fern, Goldie, Ella, Boh
1T	Hayley, Isabelle,
1M	Eyslan, Ava
1-2H	Finlay, Vin
2R	Taj, Amelie
2-3P	Darcy, Misha, Tom
3B	Euan, Edie

2022 Kindergarten Enrolments

If you have a child who will be starting school in 2022, please go onto the school website or click the [link](#) and complete the online enrolment. Please attach any required documentation to the online enrolment. Thank you

A message from the Library

Our fabulous Jan has updated our PRC lists and we can confirm ALL students in K-4 have now successfully completed their PRC for the year. Senior students in years 5 & 6 still have time to log their books (PRC closes September 3). REMEMBER, with the new “Learning from Home” changes, students need to log 20 books, 10 of which can be personal “choice” books. These can be any books they are reading at home and do not need to have the PRC sticker on the spine. We have a large selection of e-Books that can be borrowed at any time! Additional information can be found on the PRC website.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Keyes or Jan via email: kate.keyes@det.nsw.edu.au or jan.tochowicz@det.nsw.edu.au


Happy reading,
Mrs Kate Keyes

Students on site

The Department of Education urges students to stay at home, learning from home, in line with current NSW Health Public Health Orders. We respectfully reiterate this message in the light that our on-site numbers at school are rising to 16% and higher. This is beyond the target of 5-10% of students that are expected on site. Our teachers remain passionately committed to supporting ALL our students, whether at home, or on site; however, rising on-site numbers makes this a challenge for all. Lower numbers of students at school gives us greater assurance in regards to the safety of all on site as we can limit cohort mixing and promote safe physical distancing, where possible.

We know that all families are different and are experiencing the stress and demands of COVID restrictions in many different ways. We strive to extend care and compassion as we work to support our students and our community through a time of challenge and we thank all our families for working in positive partnership with our school and complying with government and department expectations in regards to keeping students at home, where possible.

We must also reiterate: please do not send students who are unwell to school. Students who present as unwell, even with mild symptoms, will be sent home, in line with department guidelines. This measure is in place to ensure the safety of your child, and all staff and students on site.


 **Our school is open for those students:**

- who cannot be educated at home
- whose parents and carers are essential workers.

There is minimal supervision available on site to support these students.

All other students must stay at home, learning from home, as directed by the NSW Health Public Health Order.

Thank you for supporting our teaching and school community to stop the spread of COVID-19.

 Follow health advice and keep your child home if they are unwell.

New communication channel via Facebook

AT PBPS we continue to communicate care and support for our school community and continue to explore the best and most useful ways possible to stay connected. The NSW Department of Education

have reached out to schools who, as yet, haven't developed a DoE approved Facebook page with the aim of supporting all schools to use this platform for ongoing community communication. With the support of the department, we're launching into new communication territory with a new school FB page and we're inviting all parents to follow this additional communication

channel: <https://www.facebook.com/Pretty-Beach-Public-School-108116534901733>

The benefits of a department-supported FB page means that the Department of Education can push out their own media updates, alerts and advice for the community to all NSW schools, communicating swiftly and widely, should the need arise. This has the potential to be significantly useful in the light of the current COVID situation. The new school Facebook page will be supported and monitored by the department's media unit. It will not replace the P&C's page and I trust that our P&C will continue to use Facebook as an appropriate channel of communication, as needed.

We are looking forward to starting our school's FB journey as we continue to work diligently to ensure our community feels informed, connected and valued and encourage all parents who use Facebook as a mode of connection to [visit our page](#) and click "follow".



Pretty Beach Public
School

Create Page @username

Follow

Learning from home - attendance requirements

At PBPS we are committed to providing the highest quality of continuity of learning for our students during this time of Learning From Home. We have lots of ways for students to engage in their learning

throughout the day and we expect that, at least once a day, we are able to see evidence of student engagement. Following Department guidelines around attendance, if a teacher has not seen any student learning engagement over three days, your child's class teacher will make contact via the phone for an attendance check-in and to offer support, if required, to help get our students back on track and engaged in their learning.

If your child is unwell at home, we do not expect them to participate in learning. Please use the normal channels to communicate with the school if your child is unwell (submit a Skoolbag attendance form or ring the office) so that we can update our attendance records.

If you need additional tech support or resources, please do not hesitate to contact the school so that we can provide the support and assistance you need to ensure that student learning can continue.

If you are concerned about your child's learning engagement, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher so that we can discuss ways of increasing support. We have a wide range of Learning Support resources that can be made available to support you and your child during Learning From Home. Contacting your child's teacher is the first step in this process.

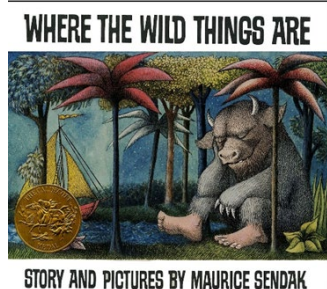
Fathers Day – virtual celebrations planned

At PBPS we want to make sure that the wonderful dads in our school community feel valued and loved, despite the current stay at home restrictions. We've got some fun activities planned for kids to engage with their dads or things to make/do. We're also teaming up with our wonderfully supportive community partners at Belle Property Killcare to provide some amazing opportunities, experiences and competitions. Stay tuned... we think it's going to be quite spectacular!

Kindy Learning from Home

In the last 2 weeks, Kindy have once again been completing some awesome learning. We read a story called 'Where The Wild Things Are' and 'The Gingerbread Man'. We have completed writing, reading and craft activities link to these stories. We have been completing half work in maths and measurement. Below is a picture of Fern and Flo who were super creative when it came to -Where The Wild Things Are. I think they could be the new front cover for the story! Thank you to all the families who are continuously supporting their kindy student through there learning. It couldn't be achieved without your help.

Mrs Gordon



Positive Behaviour for Learning Reward -Pet Zoom

Thank you to all the students that joined me on the Pet Zoom. I was so impressed that all our animals behaved and loved being on the camera! We had birds, fish, guinea pigs, rabbits, turtles, cats and dogs. Everyone that came on was able to share their pets name and tell everyone something about them. We got to learn what some people's pets eat, how playful or sleepy they are and what a joy they bring to families.

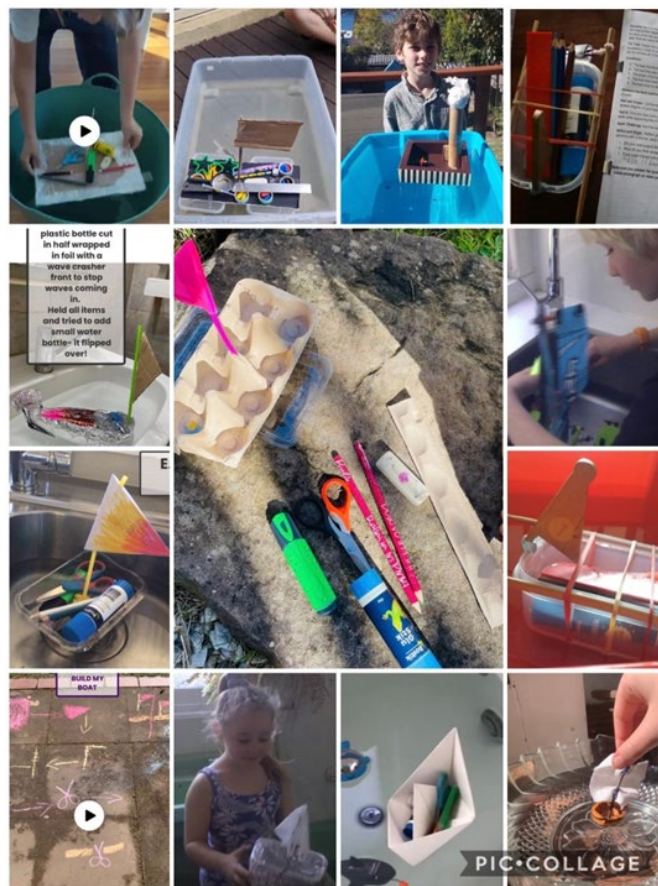


Some students joined to talk about pets that they have had in the past. Thank you to everyone who joined us. It just goes to show that pets really do become part of our families. Thank you for sharing Pretty Beach.
Mrs Gordon

2R Learning from Home

What another awesome week of learning in 2R, even if we are still LFH in lockdown. Our Stage 2 students have been improving their Informative writing skills and it has been great to see them researching effectively, paraphrasing information, critically editing their work and publishing some really interesting and informative presentations. We have learned even more about ourselves and each other through research of our favourite musicians, interesting countries, inspiring athletes and intriguing national days of celebration and commemoration.

Students also had a ship-load of fun building boats for our STEM challenge this week. 😊
Check out some of our awesome designs below...
Keep up the great work 2R!



3-6 TTRS Maths Challenge

Congratulations to Year 4 for dominating our 3-6 TTRS Maths Tournament! Special mention to Uly, Annabelle and Elliott for being awarded the 3 most valuable members!



2/3P Learning from Home

I can't express in words just how impressed I have been with the resilience and dedication that my awesome class has displayed this term! I am constantly blown away by the quality work they are producing and the positive attitude that they always display! They are always up for the challenge and show maturity when things get a bit tough or difficult. I always look forward to our weekly Zoom meetings where we share our news and check in with each other! I have loved being able to get to continue reading our class novel and their enthusiasm for new

chapters. It has also been so pleasing to watch them progress and improve with their maths, spelling and writing! Some of their information reports have been AWESOME!! Special shout out to the 2/3P parents who are doing such a great job! KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!

Keep up the excellent work to all my 2/3P legends! I AM MISSING YOU!!

Mr P 😊



Wushka



Welcome to Wushka the levelled reading on line program. All Pretty Beach families should now of received a login and password for their child to access Wushka. During this LFH period, as a staff we are struggling to read with individual students so I researched a few different options for keeping our students still engaged in their reading. Wushka is ideal. There are levelled texts that correlate with our level texts at school so teachers can identify appropriate readers for your child. At the end of each book there is a comprehension quiz to participate in. Teachers can monitor responses from students, we can see how long a child takes to read a text, we can see their quiz answers and monitor how many times a student is reading. We can alter text levels and manage how many books you read a week. Please use this as an optional/additional resource if your families are already engaging in independent readers. If you have any questions please be in touch with your classroom teacher.

Thankyou
Emma Gordon

1M Learning from Home

Every week, the students in 1M continue to amaze me with their positive approach to Learning from Home. It's tough on us all not being able to see each other at school, but 1M are adapting and learning new skills every day. The quality of their writing is improving every week and it's amazing to read. In Science we are learning about how materials change and this week they discovered how things heat and cool by raiding the freezer for frozen fruit and observing it as it thawed! (*I hope it was used in a smoothie afterwards!*). We completed a Funny Monster directed drawing in our weekly Zoom. It was a lot of fun and every monster was colorful and unique, just like our wonderful 1M classmates.

Take care, Mrs Noble.



From Mrs Keyes

Week 6 – Assessments Via Zoom

As part of our Learning Support data collection, Mrs Prendergast, Mrs Keyes and Mrs Hutchens have driven assessment this week via Zoom. Students have taken part in a range of reading and comprehension, phonics and phonemic awareness activities to assess their growth and skill development. Data will be utilised by the Learning Support Team and classroom teachers to drive future learning goals and track growth from previous terms. Students must be congratulated for their efforts in this unique time and circumstance. They were prompt, patient and persevered even when some activities were a little tricky. Well done!

Mrs Kate Keyes

Week 7 – Wellbeing Wednesday

On Wednesday 25 August, all students will replace regular "learning from home" lessons to engage in a "Wellbeing Wednesday!" This day has been designed to support our Book Week Celebrations, which will continue in Term 4 with our Scholastics Book Fair. Students will begin with a "Book and Breaky" from 9am, where Mrs Keyes will read a Short-Listed Picture Book via Zoom. They will then complete a variety of

activities at their own leisure like: designing a new board game or dressing up as their favourite book character. The day will conclude with a beautiful art lesson, led by Mrs Bridgman.

A detailed run sheet has been sent home with Week 6 & 7 packs. It can also be located on our school website under "Learning from Home."

We hope you enjoy!

Mrs Kate Keyes

Cooking Zoom

It was so wonderful to see so many smiling faces on Tuesday!

We made banana pikelets together and everyone had a variety of delicious toppings to add.

A big thank you to the parents who helped in the kitchen so their child could cook.

Mrs Hutchens



Get to know the

TEACHER



A little about me...

I have lived in many places in my life, but always on the coast, as I feel most alive and at home on a beach. I grew up in Pacific Palms near Forster, which is where I often revisit to connect to country. I live with my husband (who is also a teacher), our 3 children and our cat Viola. I am the second eldest of 7 children and am very close to my brothers and sisters. I love surfing, hanging out with my friends and family and meeting new people.

Mrs Bridgman

Favourite Things

- Food: Italian & fresh seafood
- Book: The Sea People by Jorg Muller & Jorg Steiner
- Disney Movie: Moana
- Season: Summer
- Subject: Art and English
- Colour: Greens and blues

NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT



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