

## HARTWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

It's very strange to think we are nearing the end of a highly unusual term and next week will be welcoming spring back to Australia - I think everyone will very much welcome the warmer weather. This week at Hartwell we are beginning to focus our attention on planning for Term 4 and beginning our preparations for 2021. I continue to be so impressed with the level of engagement the students are giving to learning online and commend them for their ongoing efforts.

### Professional Practice Day – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Each term all teachers are allocated a day for professional practice. On these days teachers undertake planning and professional development. **Next Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September all the Hartwell teachers will be participating in this activity and students will not be required for online classes.** The Year levels will leave a number of activities/work to complete should you require this, alternatively *I would highly recommend having a 'mental health and wellbeing day' for the family.* Please note onsite operations will continue as normal for families who are eligible.

### Onsite Learners



Many of our students and families are keen to know what learning onsite looks like. We have number of students who attend during the day and work with three teachers and some of our integration aides. They follow the same online program, have breaks and lunch and are spread over two of our classrooms. The children are in mixed year level groups during the day.



Like the children at home, the children here have been brilliant at considering the needs of others. Using hand sanitiser, washing their hands, socially distancing and showing great resilience and adapting to a 'new' version of school. We also try to have a little bit of fun too with crazy hat days, dress up days and this week a little mini-Olympics. I would like to thank the three teachers Chiara, Jacqui and Lyn for their support at this time and to our integration team who all come into school with a large smile and enthusiasm each day.



### Ready, Set, Go!

This week we began our virtual transition program for our new Preps in 2021. Whilst we would love to have our new students' onsite, we have organised a virtual story-time for the next two Wednesdays. If you have a new prep for next year and would like to join us we would love you to attend. Please click the link from our website for further information: <https://www.hartwellps.vic.edu.au/news/prep-2021-virtual-story-time>

Thanks to Pip Turner and Megan Donelly for facilitating this activity.

## Health and Wellbeing - Smiling Mind Digital Care Packs

Smiling Mind has created digital Care Packs to support the mental health of kids aged five to 12. The resources can be downloaded from the Smiling Mind website and provide parents with practical support to help manage anxiety and promote positive mental health. Each pack includes brief learning tools as well as activities for children to use within the home environment. We often use Smiling Mind resources, alongside activities such as mindful colouring, yoga or meditation during the normal school day with our students to settle them back into learning after a busy lunch or recess play.

To download the pack, see: [Smiling Mind Digital Care Packs](#)



For adults, this link takes you to a resource that has 15 mindfulness and meditation apps that have been voted some of the best available in 2020. <https://www.developgoodhabits.com/best-mindfulness-apps/>  
Whilst it doesn't suit everyone to meditate, it's often worth giving something new a go!

## Vale - Sir Ken Robinson

About fifteen years ago I watched the most incredible TED talk from Sir Ken Robinson. The message from this talk continues to be one of the most influential for me in my whole career and one that I value as both a teacher and a parent. Last weekend the world of education acknowledged the work of Sir Ken Robinson as he passed away. I have included this link to the obituary that was written on the TED blog:

<https://www.google.com.au/amp/s/blog.ted.com/remembering-sir-ken-robinson/amp/> and the link to the original TED talk from Sir Ken Robinson (there are more).

I encourage you to watch this. It is an easy to listen to and engaging talk with a lot of humour along the way. I am sure as you watch this you will see the influence this has on the teaching and learning programs we provide at Hartwell and our commitment to nurturing the whole child.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/sir\\_ken\\_robinson\\_do\\_schools\\_kill\\_creativity](https://www.ted.com/talks/sir_ken_robinson_do_schools_kill_creativity)

Thank you again for your continued support,  
Kind regards and stay safe,

*Lisa*

Lisa Banks  
Principal

## USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning.aspx>

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

## REMINDERS

- FUNDRAISER: Please see the fundraising flyer that was sent to you via email and Skoolbag for 'The Masketeers'
- End of Term 3: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September