



**Joondalup  
Primary School**  
Independent Public School

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Learning in Harmony

Dear Parents

Many families are making the decision to keep their children at home for various reasons during the COVID-19 (Corona Virus) outbreak. I appreciate that this is a difficult time for you and your families.

Please be aware that the school is continuing to operate as per usual and the teachers are continuing with their learning program.

We have received advice from the Department of Education that states:

Students whose parents have chosen to keep them home, without seeking medical advice, will not be provided curriculum work and activities.

Many teachers do provide regular communication about what is happening in the classrooms which will allow you to track what is in the learning program. We have also attached a list of websites and apps that may assist you in finding appropriate things for your children to do whilst they are at home.

The Department's response to the COVID-19 outbreak is an evolving in nature and the school is doing its best to keep you informed.

Kind regards

Carol Selley  
Principal

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Subscription services offering free access

### **Twinkl** - content for all year levels

- Twinkl are offering a one month free membership for parents to access their resources from home. Head to [www.twinkl.com.au/offer](http://www.twinkl.com.au/offer) and enter the code CVDTWINKLHELPS.
- There is also support for parents to learn how to navigate the site and resources at <https://www.twinkl.com.au/blog/how-to-utilise-twinkl-during-the-coronavirus-shutdown-a-guide-for-schools>.

### **TeachStarter** - content for all year levels

- TeachStarter is offering a free one month subscription to its premium service, TeachStarter Plus. You just need to sign up for a free account, then go to the following link to access the free month membership <https://www.teachstarter.com/freeplus/>
- The site also has some put together 'learning from home packs' that can be found here <https://www.teachstarter.com/au/blog/covid-19-teach-starters-support-for-schools-teachers-parents-students-affected/#section-2>

### **Education.com** - content for all year levels

- Education.com is offering additional resources from its premium section to all free tier members. These include stay at home work packs, interactive games and other activities across all curriculum areas.
- You can sign up for a free account at [www.education.com](http://www.education.com), then browse their library for resources
- There are also stay at home kits available at <https://www.education.com/workbooks/independent/?cid=10.174>

### **ABC Reading Eggs** - content for all year levels

This is a resource from the ABC that uses engaging and interactive activities to support the development of reading skills. The program starts with pre reading skills and builds all the way to 11-12 year old reading level. Parents can access a 30-day free trial at <https://readingeggs.com.au/>

### **Mathletics** - content for all year levels

- As many of you will know, Mathletics is already used at school and at home to support the maths learning of students. If your child is enrolled in the program, they have a login which you should have received at the start of the year. If you haven't, or have replaced it, please let the school know so it can be forwarded to you.

### **Reading A-Z** - content for all year levels

- This is an app that is used within the school, where students have access to curated, levelled reading books. The app comes with a read aloud option and a diverse range of books, as well as activities to accompany. While our school licence does not permit the use of school accounts at home, there is a 14-day free trial available at [www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)

### **Vooks** - content for all year levels

Vooks is an online streamed library of read-aloud animated storybooks. There is a huge range of books on the site covering a massive range of topics. Parents are currently being offered a 30 day free trial to the program at this link [https://www.vooks.com/join?gclid=Cj0KCQjwjcfzBRCHARIsAO-1\\_OpRWAZ1hm637HM\\_aCYTqR9XoBYpdFwt8c0db71d4plxIR5Y1-bzsNoaAoHeEALw\\_wcB](https://www.vooks.com/join?gclid=Cj0KCQjwjcfzBRCHARIsAO-1_OpRWAZ1hm637HM_aCYTqR9XoBYpdFwt8c0db71d4plxIR5Y1-bzsNoaAoHeEALw_wcB)

### **Additional web-based resources**

#### **ABC's Behind the News (BTN)** - upper primary level activities

- Behind the News offers a short, weekly 20 minute video highlighting news and current affairs from the past week, with language and stories aimed at primary school children. The videos are updated on every Tuesday during the school term and can be found here <https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/>
- There is also a teacher resource section that contains activities related to each week's video here <https://www.abc.net.au/btn/teachers/>

#### **Scholastic** - content for all year levels

- The Scholastic books website has a resource section for parents who have children at home over this period, which can be found at [www.scholastic.com/learnathome](http://www.scholastic.com/learnathome). The site has prepared 20 days of stories, videos and activities that can be searched by student year level.

#### **Virtual Tours/live videos** - content for all year levels

Virtual tours can be a great way to keep students engaged at home, while also providing them with educational outcomes. We've listed some popular animal-themed tours below, but there are many out there if you search through Google.

- San Diego Zoo - <https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/videos>
- Atlanta Zoo panda cam - <https://zooatlanta.org/panda-cam/>
- Houston Zoo - <https://www.houstonzoo.org/explore/webcams/rhino-yard-cam/>
- Monterey Bay Aquarium - <https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>
- Georgia Aquarium - <https://www.georgiaaquarium.org/webcam/ocean-voyager/>

#### **Code.org** - content for all year levels

Code.org is a resource used worldwide to teach students the fundamentals of the digital technology curriculum. You can sign your child up for free and take them through a sequence of lessons combining videos, games and offline activities to teach principles of coding, from directional coding through to text based jigsaw coding - [www.code.org](http://www.code.org)

#### **Teach Your Monster To Read** - content for all year levels

This is an engaging, sequenced series of activities that takes students through from letters and sounds to reading full sentences. The online version is completely free - [www.teachyourmonstertoread.com](http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com) - but the app version is a paid product.

### **Tar Heel Reader** - *content for all year levels*

Tar Heel Reader is a site where users can upload books they have created for other people to use. It can be viewed on laptops and devices, and there is an option for the books to be read aloud to students. You can also make books with your child using Powerpoint or another book-making software and publish your own books to the site [www.tarheelreader.org](http://www.tarheelreader.org)

## **YouTube Channels**

### **Mr Thorne Does Phonics** - *content for all year levels*

This video series is themed around the character of Geraldine the Giraffe, and is aimed at teaching students phonics, grammar and a range of other literacy skills, with videos focusing on a wide range of ability levels.

### **Jack Hartmann** - *content for all year levels*

This video series has lots of videos that can be used to teach letter names, sounds, sight words, counting skills and a range of other subjects. The videos are high energy, engaging and designed to encourage physical movement as well as learning - <https://www.youtube.com/user/JackHartmann/videos>

### **AlphaBlocks** - *lower primary level*

The AlphaBlocks videos start 26 characters, each representing a letter of the alphabet. They introduce letter names and sounds, and also have similar videos for number

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_qs3c0ehDvZkbiEbOj6Drg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_qs3c0ehDvZkbiEbOj6Drg)

### **StoryBots** - *suitable for all year levels*

The StoryBots videos cover a massive range of topics in a colourful, engaging manner. They are great as a way to prompt a writing activity or establish a theme for an activity. <https://www.youtube.com/user/storybots>

## **Additional Resources**

### **Social Stories**

Below are links to a number of social stories that you may wish to use to help explain the ongoing situation with your child. We often use social stories within school to prepare for events that are a change in the regular school routine, or to help students with activities that they find stressful.

- [https://paautism.org/resource/coronavirus-social-story/?fbclid=IwAR3ax\\_A0g3D4q65twolUbKqVB6UWF4beD-IVO3TRXq6zNRlwe8BtgSda8Ww](https://paautism.org/resource/coronavirus-social-story/?fbclid=IwAR3ax_A0g3D4q65twolUbKqVB6UWF4beD-IVO3TRXq6zNRlwe8BtgSda8Ww)

- [https://www.ppmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Corona-Virus-Free-Printable-Updated-2-The-Autism-Educator-.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3Q9hDsD4sdWXWQVKpu7j\\_xtcTC6ciaAIO-32AVmF2B03ap1IVLY7Y-U\\_M](https://www.ppmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Corona-Virus-Free-Printable-Updated-2-The-Autism-Educator-.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3Q9hDsD4sdWXWQVKpu7j_xtcTC6ciaAIO-32AVmF2B03ap1IVLY7Y-U_M)
- <https://carolgraysocialstories.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Pandemics-and-the-Coronavirus.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2T-ODP7kI2Kgo4fiKuAhk0gJ79Xs8kg1M2dO9c5MLtND74ibQXRffZ6Ko>

### **Interactive Games**

#### **Ictgames.com** - *lower primary level content*

- A collection of free, interactive English and Maths games

#### **Topmarks.co.uk** - *content for all year levels*

- This site hosts a huge range of free resources, but in particular a strong bank of interactive educational games.

#### **Sheppardsoftware.com** - *content for all year levels*

- Another useful site with a range of literacy and numeracy interactive games

### **Apps**

#### **Native Numbers** - *content for all year levels*

- This app supports students in developing basic mathematical principles, such as sequencing, counting and addition. It is available on the Apple App Store (iPad only) and is free.

#### Think & Learn Code-a-Pillar - *suitable for all students*

- This app accompanies the Code-a-Pillar robot that we use to introduce directional coding concepts to students. The app sees students use directional symbols to navigate a caterpillar through a series of maze. It is available on the Apple App Store and Google Play and is free.

#### Scratch Jr. - *suitable for middle and upper primary levels*

- Scratch Jr. uses block based symbol coding to allow to create moving videos. They can select characters, setting and items and program them to do a variety of different movements and actions. The app is free on both the Apple App Store and Google Play.