

(Incorporated Association not for Gain)

GREENPARK NURSERY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER 8 MAY 2020

Good day to all our wonderful Greenpark families - it is great to be back in touch with you in a familiar format. It certainly feels as though things have become somewhat fragmented as time goes by.

THEMES FOR NEXT WEEK:

GR. R: 2D Shapes
BLUE: Fire
GREEN: Fruit
RED: Squares
YELLOW: Squares
LAVENDER: Squares

The teachers will let you know ahead of time what resources you will need for the activities suggested but there is no pressure to do these.

PLANS FOR GOING FORWARD

When the long and unexpected lockdown started in late March, the whole world and our whole country faced an unknown and previously unexplored way forward.

In our field of Education many challenges quickly became evident, not the least being the best way to teach children virtually in the Early Childhood Development phase.

Many schools chose to follow the model for older children of sending work packs home or doing interactive online teaching. Greenpark decided otherwise as we realised from our research that this presented several problems such as:

- Not sufficient devices in homes to allow multi person use while parents were working from home
- The need for hands on facilitation of online learning
- The reluctance and inability of young children to interact remotely on screen
- Time constraints as all online teaching for under 10-year olds requires one on one facilitation
- Online teaching is time specific

After much research both locally and internationally, I was able to find a very appropriate 6 day online training course to subscribe to for all the teaching staff. They were very excited about our new learnings which were completely in line with our Greenpark knowledge and ethos.

The biggest emphasis was that for our pre-schoolers in this time of crisis, what is paramount is not the academic and intellectual content which they would receive, but rather the enormous importance of connection and contact.

We have long known that emotionally happy and stable children are good learners while anxiety and disconnect are enormous blocks to learning.

We decided as a team that we would go ahead with a plan to connect and keep in personal contact with the children and families as best we could. This required a whole new approach - something we had never needed to do before. Undaunted each teacher talked, planned, shared, researched and finally got teaching online in the best possible way for little people. We were mindful of the fact that the children needed something that they could watch and/or listen to anytime it suited the rest of the family and on whichever device might be available - no mean task!

The model we came up with was a variety of voice and video messages aimed at above all else keeping contact and connecting. Already stretched parents were not required to be available to interpret and facilitate instructions and activities, but rather children could just enjoy interpreting things themselves and even choose to watch or listen to the input numerous times. The aim is that while we are staying connected and learning new things, we are able to do it in a way that suits our particular family.

We have tried to keep the suggestions easy to use with materials which you would have at home and not to put extra pressure on you to buy supplies.

To this end we do not see the necessity of sending home "work packs and work sheets" which some schools are evidently doing. Rest assured that if you make optimum use of the input which Greenpark is providing, your child will be well able to return to school and in no way be behind.

I have attached to this newsletter a video and a book download put together by Faye Gough, our resident Play Therapist to help us all survive this crazy time as best as possible.

Please be gentle on yourselves and your children and also please appreciate the enormous and ongoing input from our amazing staff - completely untrained for this and doing the most sterling job. I am SO proud of them!

URBAN BRAZZA

Our amazing pizza supplier who keeps us so well supplied with Friday pizzas is open for deliveries. You can order from URBAN BRAZZA in Parkhurst on UBER EATS or Mr D and still enjoy your Friday pizza while school is closed!

RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS

We will keep you posted on any definite information on the re-opening of schools and as soon as we have the go ahead we will be ready to welcome you back.

Meantime stay home and stay safe!

To all our moms and Grannies - **Happy happy Mother's Day** and thanks for all you do for us. We love and appreciate you!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

