

BALGA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Connected Learning: Family Guide



*“Fostering an inclusive and supportive learning community while
delivering EXCELLENCE in EDUCATION”*

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Connected Learning at Balga Primary School

Welcome to Balga Primary School's Connected Learning Family Guide. The wording, 'Connected Learning', reflects the belief at Balga Primary that staying connected and closely linked to your school will benefit you and your child during these times. Our main priority is to stay connected with you and your child, while providing quality teaching and learning. Together we can support each other to remain connected as the Balga Primary School Community.

As a parent or caregiver, it is not your job to become the teacher during Connected Learning. Instead, we ask that parents and caregivers supplement your child's learning activities where possible and help your child maintain routines. In this guide you will find some suggestions and strategies that will help you and your child with Connected Learning. Always remember the School and your child's teacher are here to help, so please don't hesitate to contact us during school hours via telephone (9253 4500) or through Seesaw.

Balga Primary School's Guiding Principles of Connected Learning

Maintaining Relationships and Making Connections

Maintaining the strong relationship between children and their parents, students and their peers, teacher and school, parents with their school and wider community are all very important for everyone's wellbeing and mental health.

Keep Learning

Connected Learning is new for the students, the families, the teachers, the school and the Education Department. This means that everyone will be learning together, from how to structure routines and set up a home learning environment, how to use Seesaw, how teachers deliver their quality learning programs and so on. This is important because everyone will be learning together. For your child, maintaining routines, setting up a learning environment and supporting them to ask the teacher for help will enhance their Connected Learning experience and yours.

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Attendance and Student Engagement

All public schools will remain open. Parents are encouraged to keep their children at home if possible. Those who need to send their children to school to maintain employment, children of essential workers and those who require schools to support them overcome particular vulnerabilities, however, may choose to do so. Please contact the school on 9253 4500 if you wish to discuss your child's attendance.

All students are expected to engage with Connected Learning, either through our online method, Seesaw Class (different to Seesaw Family), offline homework packs or a combination of both. Please contact the school or your child's teacher via the Seesaw application for support.

Daily Routines

Each daily home routine will be different and we strongly recommend you establish a routine to suit the needs of your child and family. We have made some suggestions and recommendations that may help you:

- Start (and finish) at the same or similar time each day (this may be different to your usual school time)
- Allow your child to select break activities, such as Go Noodle or something physical. These may be more frequent for younger children.
- Have the routine visible (we do the same at school). It will encourage your child to become more independent.

You will find example routines and a blank template later in the guide.

Learning Environment

A good learning environment allows your child to focus on their learning as best they can. Each home learning environment will look different based on what you have at home. Here are some suggestions for a home learning environment:

- Ensuring a quiet space free from distractions e.g. asking the child to set aside materials that they don't need for learning (e.g. phones and other things not required for learning);
- Stationary items required for that lesson, including pen, paper and/or electronic device. Your child's stationery can be collected from school if needed - please contact the school or your child's teacher in advance;
- If possible, have your child at a comfortable table or desk with a chair and avoid glare;
- Place learning aids such as posters or your child's work on the wall near them. This will support their learning and encourage them to do more;
- Display the daily routine;
- Provide a space for physical activities and break times away from the learning space.

Online Learning

Students can access online learning through the **Seesaw Class app** or website interface. This is different to the Seesaw Family app that is used for parent and teacher communication. Information about downloading and accessing the Seesaw Class app have been sent out. Your child specific Learning Codes have been sent home in work packages or via the Seesaw Family App. These are child specific and will relate to only that child. If you have more than one child, you will have multiple codes - one for each child at Balga Primary School. Scan this code using Seesaw's built in QR Code scanner or enter the access code to the browser of the PC web-page. This code must remain private and must not be shared with anyone.

Please note that the school has ensured that only the teachers, you and your child can see work posted by your child. This is to ensure your child's privacy and the privacy of others. This means that students are unable to interact with each other on the Seesaw platform. It is recommended that parents and caregivers support their children in staying connected with their peers through secure methods such as phone conversations, safe messaging platforms and video calls. All of these should be monitored by parents or caregivers.

How to Access Seesaw Class – This is the Seesaw application your child will use. It is different to the Seesaw Family app.

App/Web Interface Installation

1. Go to <https://app.seesaw.me> on a computer or download and install the **Seesaw Class App** on a mobile device (iPad, Tablet or phone through Apple App Store or Google Play). The Seesaw Class app is different



2. Choose "I'm a Student".



3. Class Learning Codes have been sent home in work packages, or via the Seesaw Family App. These are child specific and will relate to only that child. If you have more than one child, you will have multiple codes - one for each child at Balga Primary School. Scan this code using Seesaw's built in QR Code scanner or enter the access code to the browser of the PC web-page. This code must remain private and must not be shared with anyone.

Communication

Teachers & Students: Teachers and students can communicate through the Seesaw Class app. This will allow teachers to check in on students, provide online learning activities and give feedback on work. Students can respond to teachers' posts, post their own work samples and contact their teacher. Students who are not online can contact the school (with the help from their parents), to speak directly with their teacher. In most cases, the teacher will contact the family at a suitable time. Teachers may also provide written feedback via homework packages. Parents are able to view student communication.

Teachers & Families: Families and teachers can connect through the Seesaw Family app. Families may have questions about activities so they can support their child. Teachers may contact families through the Seesaw Family app. to touch base about how Connected Learning is going and what support we can provide to help students achieve their best. Families and teachers can also communicate over phone conversations. Families please contact the school on 9253 4500 and your child's teacher will contact you at the next available time.

Families & School: Balga Primary School will attempt to call you each week. This is a general check-in to see how you and your child are going. Please take this opportunity to ask any questions or provide any feedback. If we are unable to answer specific questions, we will pass them onto the classroom teacher or school administrators to get back to you.

Please note that all communications from school staff will happen between 8am and 4pm on weekdays. Please do not expect communication outside these hours. School staff will attempt to get back to you or your child as soon as they can.

Wellbeing and Mental Health

The wellbeing and mental health of you, your child and our staff is paramount. We will continue to support those families who require support as best we can. This includes continuing our Chaplaincy Program and OnPsych services via phone communication, touching base with families weekly and connecting families with external agencies.

It is strongly recommended that you seek advice from your GP or hospital emergency department regarding urgent wellbeing and mental health issues.

Important Contacts

Lifeline - 13 11 44 - www.lifelinewa.org.au

Kids Helpline - 1800 551 800 - www.kidshelpline.com.au

Child and Adolescent Health Services: Urgent Mental Health Support – 1800 048 636 - www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/

Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636 - www.beyondblue.org.au

Connected Learning Expectations

| Students | Families | Teachers and School |
|---|---|--|
| Maintaining Relationships and Making Connections | | |
| <p>Students will be kind to their parents or caregivers who are supporting their connected learning.</p> <p>If online, students will communicate (hello message, comment on activities, ask questions etc.) with the teacher each school day.</p> <p>Students should ask their teacher for help when necessary. Parents can support students in this process.</p> | <p>Families can contact their child's teacher through the Family Seesaw application, or make a call to the school between 8am and 4pm.</p> <p>Families, parents and caregivers are not replacing teachers, but rather supplement the Connected Learning. Avoid unnecessary conflict with your child but seek support from the school or your child's teacher.</p> | <p>The school will make calls to each family weekly to check in and see where we can help.</p> <p>The school will provide additional support to families where necessary.</p> <p>Teachers will communicate regularly with students regarding their learning and wellbeing.</p> <p>Teachers will communicate with families when required.</p> <p>Teachers will not be contactable outside the hours of 8am and 4pm.</p> |
| Keep Learning | | |
| <p>Students make sure they attempt all tasks to the best of their ability.</p> <p>Students will make and keep a routine, with support from their family.</p> <p>Students will keep a tidy work space.</p> <p>Students will ask their teacher or family for help.</p> <p>Students will continue to learn how to use the online platform if possible.</p> | <p>Families, parents and caregivers do not replace teachers, but rather supplement the teacher and the work being provided.</p> <p>Families will help their child make and keep a routine.</p> <p>Families will help their child set up and maintain a suitable work environment (quiet, space, comfortable etc.)</p> <p>Families will learn how to use the online platform with their child.</p> | <p>The school will provide learning for all students (online, offline or both).</p> <p>Teachers will continue to provide quality learning opportunities and materials.</p> <p>Teachers will provide feedback to students and families on student work.</p> <p>Teachers will continue their learning in what works best for Connected Learning.</p> |

Connected Learning: What you can expect

Teachers will be providing their students with Connected Learning through Seesaw Class, homework packages or a combination of both. It is important to note that the main focus in the first days and weeks will be connecting and engaging students with their learning and the Seesaw Class platform. This will give you and your child the chance to become familiar with how to use Seesaw Class without having to get through too much class work. As the weeks go by, you, your child and the school will become more familiar with the Seesaw Class platform and more work may be uploaded.

Teachers will post daily activities for your child to complete on Seesaw Class. Some activities will require your child to post a response that could be a video, audio, text or picture. Homework packages can be collected from the front office from 8am Monday mornings if you are unable to access Seesaw Class. Please avoid rushing at 8am each Monday and if the office is busy, please wait outside in a line 1.5 metres apart.

Connected Learning: Kindy and Pre-primary

The success of each student is the responsibility of everyone and we acknowledge that our younger students will need significantly more assistance than our older children.

Daily Update

Teachers will provide their classroom with a good morning update. At first, your child will need your help to access this update. In each daily update, teachers will outline the learning that has been set out for your child. They may give general feedback on tasks and update children on things that have happened at school and around the community. They may include some explicit teaching or feedback as required.

Updates will be delivered to students in the Seesaw Class app and released to children each morning. Please remember that students can access these at any time when their school day begins.

Daily Schedule

In the early years, young children learn through play experiences. Play enables children to make connections between prior experiences and new learning. We strongly suggest that you keep that in mind when designing your home learning daily schedule.

English: Each day children will be provided with a number of English tasks that could include a weekly review, spelling, writing, reading, speaking and listening.

Numeracy: Each day children will be provided with numeracy (maths) activities that could include a weekly review and a numeracy activity.

Investigation: Each week children will receive an investigation task based on either Health, Science, Art, History and Social Sciences or Technology. This task goes throughout the week and should be done after the English and Numeracy tasks have been completed or attempted.

Other activities: Your child's teacher may provide your child with optional activities. These should be started once the other activities have been completed.

This is a sample timetable only. What your child's schedule looks like is up to your family and should meet the needs of your family and your child. There is a blank timetable at the end of the guide for you to use.

| Possible Time | Block Name | Activity | Tick |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|------|
| Before 8:40 | Morning Preparation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wake up - eat breakfast - Make bed, get dressed, brush teeth - Morning fitness | |
| 9:00 | Daily Check-in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check Seesaw for daily check-in - Read schedule for the day - Set up daily routine | |
| Up to 15 minutes | English | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English activity 1 | |
| As long as you want | Brain Break | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play something physical - Work on gross/fine motor skills | |
| Up to 15 minutes | English | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - English activity 2 | |
| As long as you want | Morning Recess | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a snack and a drink - Play outside if you can | |
| Up to 20 minutes | Numeracy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maths Activity | |
| As long as you want | Brain Break | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Play something physical - Work on gross/fine motor skills | |
| As long as you want | Lunch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eat your lunch and have a drink - Play outside if you can | |
| Up to 30 minutes | Investigation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue investigation - Tidy learning environment | |

Connected Learning: Years 1-6

The success of each student is the responsibility of everyone. It is important to note that the main focus in the first days and weeks, will be connecting and engaging students with their learning and the Seesaw Class platform. This will give you and your child the chance to become familiar with how to use Seesaw Class without having to get through too much class work. As the weeks go by, you, your child and the school will become more familiar with the Seesaw Class platform, and more work may be uploaded.

Daily Update

Teachers will provide their classroom with a good morning update. At first, your child will need your help to access this update. In each daily update, teachers will outline the learning that has been set out for your child. They may give general feedback on tasks and update children on things that have happened at school and around the community. They may include some explicit teaching or feedback as required.

Updates will be delivered to students in the Seesaw app and released to children each morning. Please remember that students can access these at any time when their school day begins.

Daily Schedule

Each daily schedule will look different in each home. The teachers will be providing your child with daily activities that can fit within your child's daily schedule. There are a number of daily activities your child must complete or attempt.

English: Each day children will be provided with a number of English tasks that could include weekly review, spelling, writing, reading, speaking and listening.

Numeracy: Each day children will be provided with a number of numeracy (maths) activities that could include a weekly review, basic facts and a maths concept.

Humanities and Social Science (HASS): Each week, children will have one activity to complete.

Health: Each week, children will have one activity to complete.

Technology: Each week, children will have one activity to complete.

Art (specialist for year 1-2): Each week, children will have one activity to complete.

Science (Specialist years 1-6): Each week, children will have one activity to complete.

Music (Specialist years 1-6): Each day, children will have one short activity to complete.

Languages (specialist years 3-6): Each day, children will have one short activity to complete.

Physical Education (specialist year 1-6): Each week, children will have one activity to complete.

Other activities: Your child's teacher may provide your child with optional activities. These should be started once the other activities have been completed.

This is a sample timetable only. What your child's schedule looks like is up to your family and should meet the needs of your family and your child. There is a blank timetable at the end of the guide for you to use.

| Possible Time | Block Name | Activity | Tick |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|------|
| Before 8:40 | Morning Preparation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wake up, eat breakfast, get dressed, make bed and brush teeth - Morning fitness | |
| 9:00 | Daily Check-in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check Seesaw for daily check-in - Read schedule for the day and any feedback - Set up daily routine | |
| Up to 30 minutes | English Block | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daily review - Spelling | |
| As long as you like | Brain Break | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short physical activity | |
| Up to 30 minutes | English Block | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reading Fluency - Reading Comprehension or Writing | |
| As long as you like | Brain Break | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short physical activity | |
| As long as you like | Morning Recess | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a snack and a drink - Play outside if you can | |
| Up to 20 minutes | Numeracy Block | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daily Review - Basic Facts | |
| As long as you like | Brain Break | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short physical activity | |
| Up to 20 minutes | Numeracy Block | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maths Concept | |
| As long as you like | Brain Break | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short physical activity | |
| As long as you like | Lunch Break | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eat your lunch and have a drink - Play outside if you can | |
| Up to 30 minutes | HASS/Health/Art /Tech/Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One or two activities based on class schedule - Tidy learning environment | |

Helpful Information

Supporting your child's Connected Learning at home can be tricky at times. The resources below, from the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE), provide some great information and practical strategies for you to use at home. All this information can be found here: [SIDE parent information link](#)

[50 Ways to say 'Very Good'](#)

[Coping with negative attitude](#)

[Developing self-motivation](#)

[Making your own "classroom" rules](#)

[Managing the Schoolwork Sessions](#)

[Motivating Schoolwork Sessions](#)

[Organising your day: things to consider](#)

[When your child has difficulty concentrating](#)

[Working in the "classroom" with different ages](#)

[Helping your child to be a successful reader](#)

[Helping kids handle BIG emotions](#)



Additional Activities and Links

The Balga Primary School website has links to additional at home learning activities. Click on your child's year level for access to our at home learning information.

[Kindy](#) – [Pre-primary](#) – [Year 1](#) – [Year 2](#) – [Year 3](#) – [Year 4](#) – [Year 5](#) – [Year 6](#)

Blank Timetable

This is a blank timetable for you and your child to complete together if you choose to do so.

| Time | Block Name | Activity | Tick |
|------|------------|----------|------|
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