

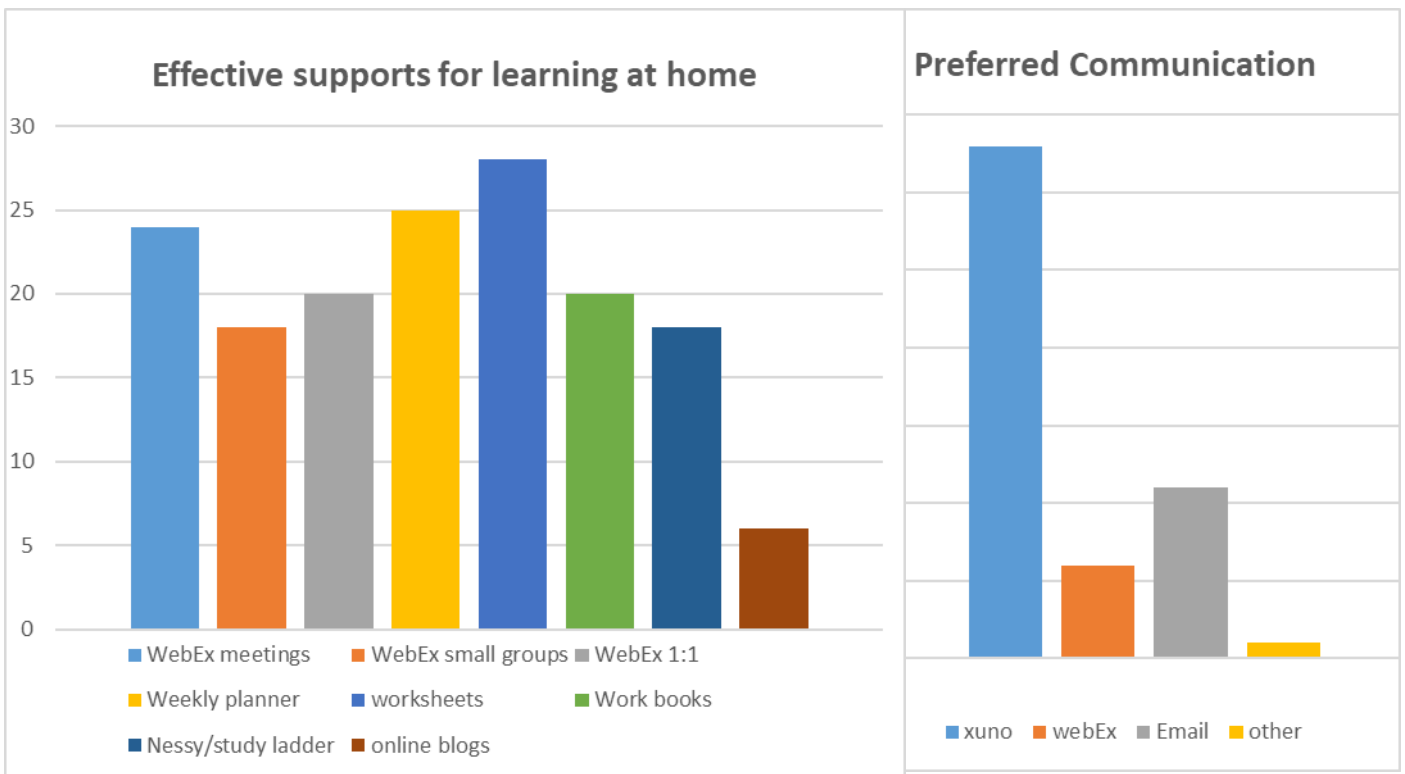


June 10th Term 2, Week 9

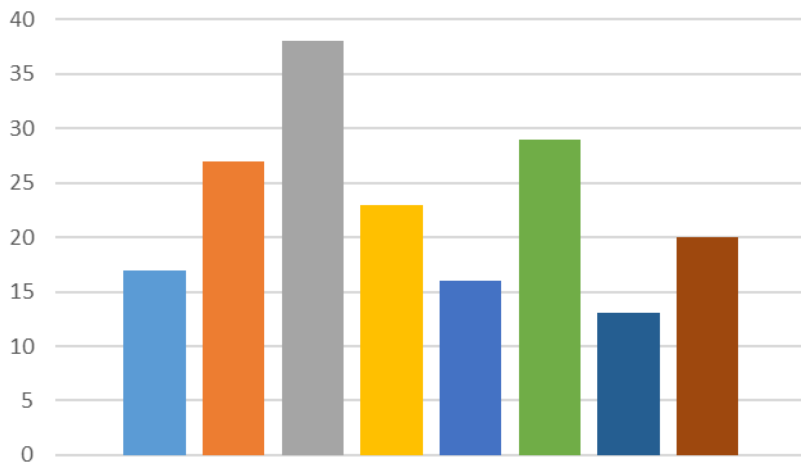
A warm welcome back to all our Year 3- 6 students and their families. It has been wonderful to see our students again. The sun has shone gloriously down on us and the students have enjoyed reuniting with their peers and teachers.

Parent feedback

Last week I sent out a link to seek parent feedback about the successes of remote learning with a lens of discovering your thoughts about what could be continued into the future. I have included the results of the first 3 questions and then have categorised the comments from the final question into the following four categories.

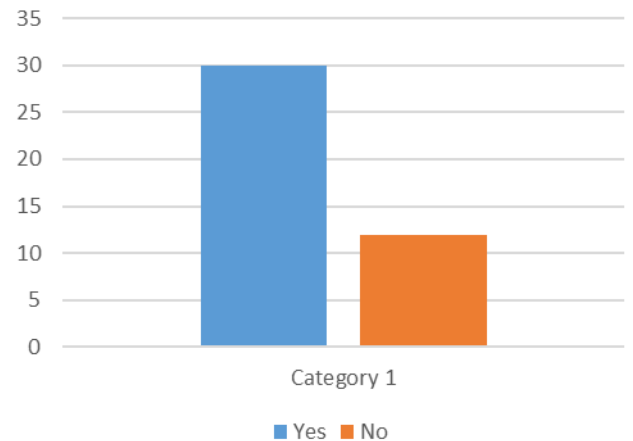


Benefits of remote learning



- Increased communication with school
- increased communication with teacher
- increased understanding of what my child is learning
- increased confidence to support their learning
- increase understanding of available resources
- increased understanding of how my child learns
- increased ability to incorporate learning opportunities

Are there aspects of remote learning that you would like continued?



Weekly Planner and Notes	Parent connection to Learning	Communication	Resources
<p>Detailed weekly planner and accompanying worksheets for each cycle.</p> <p>Less detailed weekly/ fortnightly planner to go home each week</p> <p>Topics covered over 6 week cycle sent home.</p>	<p>Students have enjoyed parents being a part of the Learning</p> <p>Increased parent confidence and participation in child's learning</p> <p>Be more aware of student's weaknesses and strengths</p>	<p>Enjoyed the increased access/ communication of all parties to enable student learning</p> <p>Regular communication on student progress and areas for improvement</p> <p>Future WebEx one on one sessions as needed</p>	<p>Access to helpful resources for students who need extra support</p> <p>Promote Studyladder for home/continue with set tasks for each student</p> <p>Film all assemblies for those who can't attend</p> <p>Worksheets or Studyladder to be sent home to provide extra support for my students weaknesses</p> <p>Students to bring home work samples in core subjects</p>

Information night

We conducted our annual information night last night utilising the WebEx platform. A huge thanks to Dave and Cath and the staff for their help in preparing the presentation. I have received many positive comments about how well it went and this is largely due to their hard work.

All staff came online for the presentation and this was a great show of support for Dave and Cath but also for our school community.

Thank you to all our families that came to the night as well as Ebony Perrin who represented the School Council. We had 29 people logged into the meeting which was a fantastic result with many prospective families participating in the night.

Reporting

Due to Covid 19 schools were given the option of doing graded reports or a description of what they learnt and a comment about how the child coped with remote learning. We have decided to continue with the new reporting system that we started this year.

The new reporting system is broken into 6 cycles consisting of approximately 6 weeks. At the end of each cycle a report is created for each child reflecting the work completed during this time. Students are given a percentage score for 'Achievement' as well as 'Attitude and Effort'. Towards the end of Term 1 you will have received the first report for a number of subject areas for Cycle 1.

As communicated in a previous note, we decided not to do a Cycle 2 report as there was so much to put into place for remote and flexible learning and this was significantly impacting upon teacher workload.

Another reason for continuing with the reporting process was that we felt that parents/carers already knew what your child was expected to learn as you guided them through this process. You had a number of documents that outlined the curriculum.

However, in doing this style of reporting, the staff are wary that some of the work samples completed during this cycle will have been influenced by parents and carers. This could have an impact on the teacher judgements. We ask that you take this into consideration as well as the impact of remote learning when analysing the report. Results may vary between this report and the following ones.

The reports will be sent out on Friday 26th June.

Parent/teacher interviews

We would like to conduct these in the last week of term. These will be open for booking by the end of this week.

They can be face to face on school grounds or conducted using WebEx. This is agreed to between your child's teacher and the parent.

We appreciate that parents/carers could have many questions about their child's development and learning after the remote learning experience. Therefore, the purpose of these interviews is to discuss your child's learning and to clarify any questions about their development.

Alumni posts on Facebook

This week we started a new initiative that showcases the achievements of past students. Members of staff and the school community recommend past students and then this information will be put on Facebook using a fantastic template that Madeleine Steel created. Thanks to Nicole Dwyer for ensuring that this idea came to fruition! A big thanks to the Steel family for agreeing to share their stories and for their continued support of our school. It is greatly appreciated!

Regards, Kath

Reminders

- **Please ensure unwell children stay away from school.**
- Restricted entry to school for non-essential visitors will be enforced. Please respect the safe drop off zone where you can say goodbye to your child.
- No Assemblies until further notice.
- Café and Choir will resume in Term Three.
- SAKGP will resume on June 9th, but will only be creating individual foods, no shared platters.
- Intervention Learning will resume in week 10.
- Private music lessons can resume in week 10, as determined by the providers.

Parent Financial Statements

Financial statements will be emailed to each family in the last week of term. These will show the outstanding amount for those families who have chosen to pay their parent contributions in instalments.

For those who are making Centrepay payments, it will show how much has been received and what remains to be covered.

The half yearly instalment of the 2020 Parent Contributions will be processed on Friday 17th July 2020.

Please call Jenni or Kath if you have any queries/concerns.

School Bus Transport Program

As mentioned last week, the school country buses are still running.

Please note that the buses are not currently used by other travellers at all during the day and are cleaned upon return in the morning, and prior to collecting the children in the afternoon.

The buslines have asked me to remind all our student bus travellers of the following procedures in place due to COVID-19.

- Ensure students use sanitizer before boarding the bus.
- (No food or drink on the school buses.
- Students are to sit as far apart as possible. If possible, use every second row and stagger seating so that the row opposite will be empty. Siblings are to sit together if there is limited room on the bus. The drivers will not be expected to enforce social distancing on the bus.
- Extra cleaning and wiping down of surfaces of the buses will continue as required.
- The two front rows of seats on the buses will be cordoned off (8 seats) – for separation for the driver.
- If Drivers are concerned with the health of a student that travels - it will be reported to school either directly or via the relevant co-ordinator.

Head Lice

Just a friendly reminder to check your child for Head Lice before they return to school. If you need any help in this regard, please refer to the Department of Health website.

While there has been much excitement around the return to school, most students will also be feeling some apprehension and worry. During times of change, it is normal and expected for anxiety and worry to temporarily rise. Returning to school after an extended period of time away, and particularly during these uncertain times of COVID-19, may be challenging for students (and parents!).



You may notice some of the signs in your young person during the lead-up and first few weeks of return to school:

- Tearfulness
- Clinginess
- Increased acting out: tantrums, fights with siblings, answering back to parents
- Complaints about headaches/stomach aches
- Irritability
- Withdrawal or disinterest in usual activities or friendships
- Talking more and asking more questions about COVID/school
- Focussing more on the negative aspects of life

Tips for supporting your young person to return:

- Encourage and reassure: talk about times when you or your young person has pushed through and done something difficult. How did you/they feel during it, and afterwards?
- Normalise fears and worries, talk about some of your own worries and what you do to positively cope (i.e. positive self-talk, exercise, talk to a friend). Model these positive coping strategies in front of your young person.
- Encourage your young person to talk about their fears and problem solve with them how to manage them.

Continued ...

- When a young person is focussed on the negatives of school, ask them what they are looking forward to, search for the small but important things they like about school (e.g. snack time, art, chatting with friends).
- Praise small steps for returning to school – tell them you are proud of them for being brave.
- Have the parent who is better at encouraging attendance to take your young person to school.
- Within COVID restrictions, team up with other parents/kids to support each other and motivate your young person to get to school.
- Ask your young person where they feel the stress in their bodies. Then get them to breathe a calming breath into that spot, and then breathe the stress out. Repeat!
- Sipping water and/or chewing something crunchy (like a carrot) on the way to school can help re-focus anxious minds.
- Play a game to distract on the way to school: how many things can you see that are green or that start with the letter T? What 10 things would you take with you on a trip to Mars?
- Find something small (like a pebble) to keep in their pocket to remind them that they are safe and loved while at school.
- Strong will, determination, and persistence are all important qualities for parents to maintain.

I am available Thursdays and Fridays if you feel your young person needs some extra support.

Good luck and best wishes for a safe and settled return to school.

Anna Drylie, Wellbeing worker.