



Russell Lea
PUBLIC SCHOOL



Newsletter

Term 3 Week 4 Friday 6 August 2021

Important Dates

Please refer to our [website calendar](#) for a full list of 2021 school dates

September 17
Last day of term.

Finding The Balance

Week 4 seems to be the week that the reality presented by home learning has started to bite. The first couple of weeks were simply different and for most it was not too hard to adjust. As the lockdown continues and the timeframe for a return to normal life becomes less certain some anxiety, frustration and occasional despair has crept in. Our current circumstances are difficult, and it may remain this way for some time. Many parents are finding themselves stretched between work, home commitments and the learning of their children. It is easy to feel like you are failing when you are trying to replicate normal school learning in a home environment.

During our recent stage-based parent discussion forums we heard about various struggles and possible solutions to these. The key message was home learning is a compromise to accommodate health orders so perfect learning moments may not occur very often. Good wellbeing is a prerequisite for learning. Children who are not doing well emotionally may complete 'work' (or not) but they will not be learning. As a parent it is important to find the balance between learning expectations and what is achievable. It is okay to only complete the learning that is achievable for your family. If we are concerned about a lack of engagement with home learning, we will contact you and work out how to support you.

If your child is struggling to be motivated keep in mind these three things: Firstly, a child's sense of competence is important. If they are struggling to complete a task focus on the element(s) which are achievable, however small these are. Emphasise progress made and how they got there, not on the lack of a perfect outcome. Children are very sensitive to parent judgement about competence. They will feel competent when they know you are proud of and can see the progress they are making, even if this progress is small. Secondly keep in mind the relationship they have with you and their home learning activities. Do these relationships promote feelings of competence, safety and hope? Children can be very isolated during lockdown and are more dependent on the relationship with their parents to guide their thinking about learning. Thirdly they need some autonomy. Children learn best when they see learning as something they are doing for themselves rather than for the adults around them. Provide autonomy when it is needed by stepping back and letting them run with a thought, activity or interest that is productive. Their worst idea might end up being more productive than your superior idea.

Teaching is complex work and schools exist for a reason. Being a parent and a teacher is difficult. Be kind to yourself, flexible with your child and contact us if you need some help.

Dan Sprange
Principal

Home Learning In Focus – 1/2D Science

Learning about gravitational force at home can be very engaging. Students in 1/2D have come up with some very creative ways of building marble runs. Lots of perseverance and creativity on display.



Student Leadership

Challenging times can bring out the best in leaders and this is the case with our student leaders. Without physically attending school it would have been easy for them to consider their role redundant, instead they have collaborated and come up with a series of lockdown challenges to help us through. The tower challenge and Olympics Quiz have made the lockdown a little easier for many families. Leadership at RLPS is about making the world a better place and this is exactly what they have done. Thank you and well done.



Where are the Olympics being held this year?

Correct
+ 931



Next

▲ Rio



◆ Paris



● Tokyo

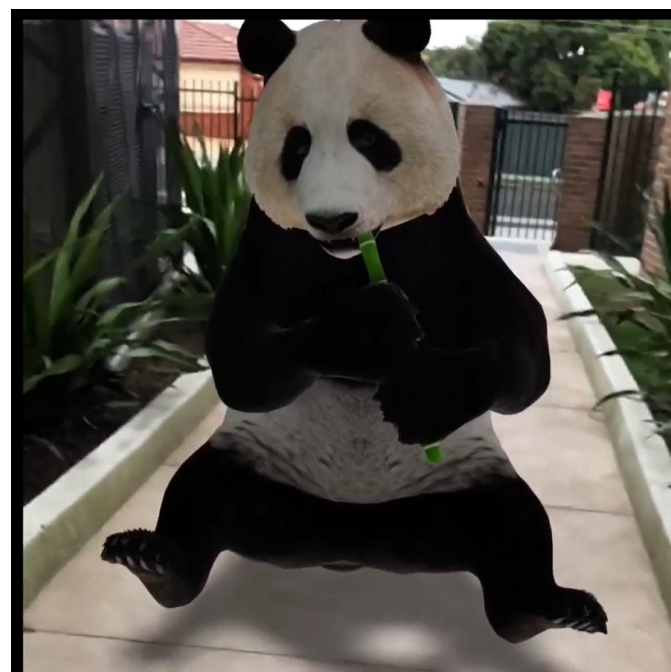
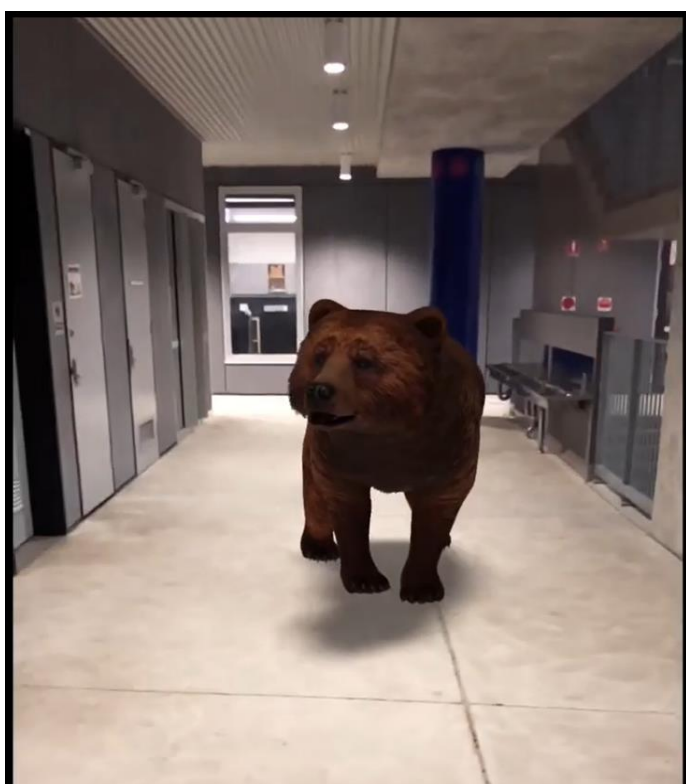
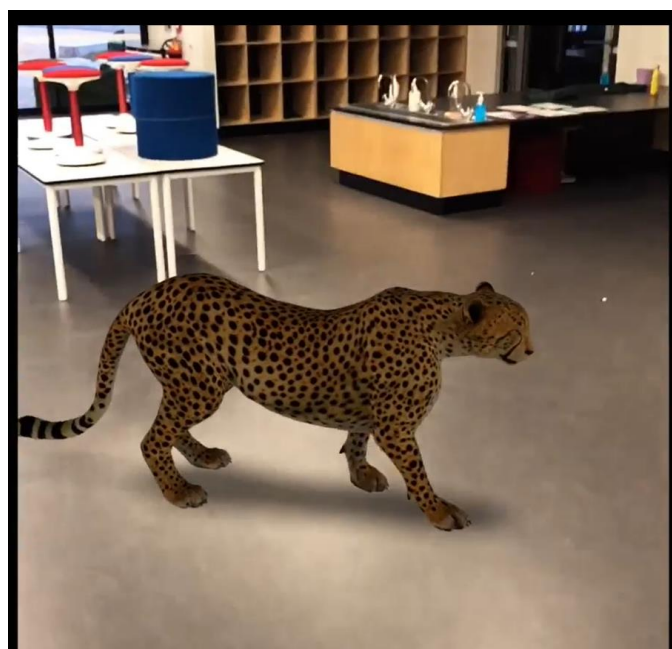


■ London



RLPS Zoo

Stage 1 teachers created a video last week of animals taking over the school. The animation is on our Facebook page and worth a look if you haven't had a chance to share it with your child.





A Thank You to all
**Parents and Carers
who became Teachers**
in the time of COVID from our children



On behalf of all of us, we wanted to say a big thank you for all that you have done and are doing for us during the COVID-19 emergency.

- Thank you for taking on yet another role in your life at very short notice.
- Thank you for installing a school in your home.
- Thank you for persisting with online classroom applications and programs.
- Thank you for listening and being encouraging when school work felt too hard.
- Thank you for offering to find out the answers together.
- Thank you for sharing motivation when the days felt so long.
- Thank you for balancing this on top of so much that has changed for you.
- Thank you for the hot meals and the full fridge at lunch time.
- Thank you for bringing some fun to home-school.
- Thank you for reading books together and sharing ideas about them.
- Thank you for the late nights that you are working to fit everything in.
- Thank you for continuing to try.
- Thank you for turning up every day.
- Thank you for not giving up.
- Thank you for being a teacher to us not just now, but throughout our lives.

Years from now, we probably won't remember much of what you said or tried to teach us. But we will remember that you were there, beside us, day after day. We will remember how you looked after us. We will remember the laughs we shared. We will remember that it was so different to what normal school was like. We will remember how much you tried. Most of all, we will remember how much you loved us and cared about our education.



Thank you

Our staff are very grateful for the gifts and kind words sent in each week. We care about students and their learning. In a home learning environment it is sometimes very difficult to meet the high expectations we have students and this weighs heavily on our shoulders. Your generosity makes a big difference and inspires us to keep doing our best. Thank you.

(*We loved the bananas sent in by our parents who run Kadmus Restaurant in Drummoyne.)



Keeping us safe and looking good

You may have noticed our resident sewing expert Ms Dolan has turned her talents to mask making. We are not sure where she finds the time but we are very grateful to be feeling safe and looking good as a result of her sewing skills. Unfortunately once one staff member got a mask everyone wanted to get one so she has been hard at work making more.

A message from Abbotsford Presbyterian Church

Today our church partnered with the local community to create a pantry for anyone struggling during this pandemic. Our church hall has turned into a pantry stocked with donations from so many generous people from the community of Five Dock and surrounds. Are you struggling and need some pantry items to help? Come visit us at 443 Great North Rd on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday between 2-4pm. Please bring face mask and phone to check in via our QR code.

A big thank you for everyone in our community that donated. At this time, we don't need any more grocery donations. We are tentatively going to accept grocery donations on Sunday 8 August. This will be confirmed closer to that date.

