



# Warrenheip Primary School Newsletter

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### August

Mon 30 School Council meeting 6pm

### September

Thu 16 Footy colours day

Fri 17 End of term 2.30pm finish

### October

Mon 4 Start Term 4

Wed 6 Camp (G 4,5,6) Halls Gap (3 days)

Wed 13 Transition morning (first session)

## Thought for the Day

The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well.

Joe Ancis

*Dear Parents and Community Members,*

I am very grateful this week that we have been able to stay out of lockdown and continue with normal school. What a bonus that we live in the country and not in Melbourne. We have been working hard on resettling the kids again these last two weeks and I believe that things are getting back on an even keel. Sadly, the only certain thing at the moment seems to be uncertainty, but we will get through whatever the world has to throw at us!

I have been reflecting this week on the amount of screen time that the children have been getting through all these lock-downs, and the pitfalls that brings along. A number of parents have expressed concerns lately about all sorts of computer / internet / device related issues so I thought I would address some of them here.

There are several issues that arise when we think about internet safety. I'd like to start by reminding all of us that the internet is a big public space with very little in the way of rules or policing. Children in particular are not always able to identify what is safe and what isn't

in the world, and being on the internet is no different. Online bullying, inappropriate content, contact with unsafe people, gaming addictions and too much screen time are all issues that come up when we deal with the internet.

Screen time is always a difficult issue. The general advice is that there is no right amount of screen time that applies to everyone. If screen time is getting in the way of normal family life, or is causing addictive symptoms like refusal to engage with other activities or anger and irritability when not online, then there may be cause for concern.

Accessing inappropriate content is ridiculously easy on the internet and children as young as 9 or 10 are already beginning to explore areas that you may find challenging. I found this quote online from a parenting expert:

*A mother of a 7-year-old boy told me that her son was exposed to pornography in the classroom when a classmate told him to search 'bum' and 'naked ladies'. The classmate had an older brother who was viewing pornography and had shown him how to find explicit content. This boy told his friends all about what his brother had shown him.*

*Another mum found her 9-year-old daughter on the computer in the study space of their home at midnight. She confessed that she had heard about pornography at school and had become curious. She had been getting up in the middle of the night to explore the online world of pornography.*

When my own children were at primary school we had a rule that screens could only be used in public areas of the house and in such a way that mum or dad could see the screen too.

These are challenging issues to think about but they are vital for your kids welfare. Just as you probably wouldn't send them off to Melbourne alone on the train, I would encourage you to think about sending them off alone into the internet. I am sending out more information with this newsletter, and much more is available at [www.esafety.gov.au/parents](http://www.esafety.gov.au/parents).

Finally, I look forward to seeing the school councillors for our meeting either face to face or via video conference on Monday 30<sup>th</sup>.

*Have a great weekend,  
Arthur Lane*