



Term 1, Week 10, 3rd April 2020

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Dear parents and caregivers,

As term one concludes, I would like to thank our entire school community for your support and understanding during this very challenging time. We acknowledge that all of our families have been either directly or indirectly impacted by this situation. Our focus throughout this period has been on the wellbeing and care of all students and striving to keep school routines as normal as possible. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our Reidy Park staff who have worked very hard to ensure this occurs whilst also being highly responsive and professional in managing an ever changing environment. Information has been provided below regarding planning for term 2.

Holiday work packs

Requests for further work packs cannot be accommodated as teachers are preparing resources for next term.

Term 2 Attendance

At this stage, next term will look the same as now. The advice from Australia's Chief Medical Officer and Prime Minister is that schools will remain open. Individual sites will only be temporarily closed if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19. The Department for Education is encouraging families who have the capacity to have their child/children undertake home learning to do so whilst our school will remain open for children whose families are unable to. Our staff will be providing an online learning program for students to access if they are not attending school.

Class Arrangements

All teachers and students will remain in their present class from the commencement of next term however there may be occasions when 'like' year levels combine. For example, a student in year 1 will have their class teacher as usual but they may also join a different year 1 class for part of the day. Until attendance numbers are known we are unable to determine if this will occur and to what extent.

Online learning

Next week during the pupil free days staff will be working to set up our online learning. The online content will be distributed weekly although some tasks may be uploaded daily depending how your child's teacher schedules the work. Activities will follow, as closely as we can, what is being covered in class and will be a mixture of work with teacher directions, some digital programs, video clips to watch and some work they can do independently. Depending on the age and ability of the child, parents/carers can support or direct their children where needed. Once this work has been finalised, an overview of this information will be sent out to families via SMS and School Stream.

What if I don't have access to technology devices at home or access to the internet?

Our teachers are aware that not all family homes are the same and will plan to cater for students with and without devices. For families who do not have access to technology devices or the internet, take home work packs will be available and can be picked up from school at the start of term 2, or alternatively, if you would like it posted to you, please contact the front office. Please be aware that if your child is participating in online learning they will not need this take home pack.

Will there be streamed lessons in real-time?

Teachers are already talking about filming themselves in some short video clips to help with the learning process at home. In the future, teachers may explore using a real time online streaming platform to provide explicit teaching to students at home whilst they are teaching the students who remain at school.

How do families manage more than one child at home (having children in different year levels)?

The learning content being provided by the class teacher is a guide and you are free to move around the content to best suit your needs in the home. We understand families may not have access to multiple devices for all your children and we also appreciate that you simply may not be able to cover all that has been planned. We see this as trying to

maintain the learning process but just in a different context. Our staff will provide assistance and guidance as necessary.

Will the school be offering their devices for families to use at home?

No, not at this stage. If families do not have any devices we will provide a paper pack of student work.

School – Home Communication

Teachers will touch base with families using different communication platforms. Equally, if families have questions about learning content, then they will have the opportunity to email their child's teacher. Please be mindful that your child's teacher may not be available to reply promptly as they will be still maintaining their face to face teaching; we also seek your understanding that communication with families/students will not necessarily occur outside of normal work hours. Once we have a clearer picture of overall attendance levels at the start of next term, further information will be shared with families about how the online interactions between school and home will be managed. In addition, it is imperative that we have updated parent/carer mobile numbers to ensure we can contact you if needed.

Materials and Services Fees

To support families impacted by COVID-19, we will be revising the payment schedule and due date for school fees. Once this has been finalised, we will let families know.

Term 2 Start Date

The first day of term 2 is Monday April 27th. Originally this date was booked for a training and development day for staff however this has been postponed.

If you have any queries regarding any of this information please contact the school. We will strive to give you up to date information over the coming weeks if anything changes. You can also call the government's coronavirus health information line on 1800 020 080. The line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Once again, thank you for your ongoing understanding with this situation.

Kind regards,

Stephen Jolley
Principal