

23 MARCH 2020

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Pleasant Street Primary School

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Guardians,

Students on site thoroughly enjoyed the last day of Term 1. Below are some FAQs you may have with responses based on the latest DET information. As is becoming the norm with COVID-19, plans are subject to change.

Is school open this week for students?

Tuesday March 24th is the first day of the school holidays. Parents and guardians who work in essential services, which may include health, police, corrections and emergency services, may access care and supervision at the school from Tuesday to Friday if those parents choose to do so.

I am an essential service worker and I require a holiday program place.

Please contact Camp Australia.

Is Camp Australia running their holiday program?

At this stage, indications are that Camp Australia will be running their holiday program. They will contact families who access this service directly.

Can we access Home Learning this week?

Tuesday March 24th is the first day of the school holidays. Home Learning will be provided in the case that the school remains closed after Easter for Term 2. Term 2 is scheduled to commence on Wednesday the 15th of April.

What would Home Learning in the case of school closures look like at Pleasant Street Primary?

If the school is closed in Term 2, all Home Learning will be provided through Google Classrooms. Google Classroom has been set up for all students across the school. All students have been added to an online classroom space called "Home Learning" for their year level. Student usernames and passwords were sent home along with instructions for families last week.

Daily Literacy and Numeracy lessons will be provided through the Home Learning classrooms. There will also be additional lessons for Mapping, Respectful Relationships, Mindfulness and all Specialist subjects. All lessons will be delivered as an Assignment. Students can complete work using school books or materials around the home or on their iPads and upload their evidence to each Assignment. Teachers will be available to provide written feedback.

Worksheets or printed work are not part of our plan for Home Learning. Families who do not have an iPad can access the Home Learning classrooms from any internet device including a phone. Students do not need a device to complete the learning as they can use their school books to complete the work and if possible can upload a photo through a parent's phone.

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How will we know if schools are closed and we need to access Home Learning?

We are closely following the advice provided by DET. Any news regarding school closures or when Home Learning may begin will be communicated through our Compass app and the school Facebook page in a timely fashion.

In the event of a school closure, how will I communicate with the school?

Parents are welcome to email Mark McLay, Helen Romeril or their classroom teachers through the Compass app. Students may add a comment to assignments they need extra help with on Google Classrooms. DET advice will determine whether our office phones are operational in the event of a school closure.

How can we find the latest information about COVID-19?

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx#link87>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

We will continue to keep our community informed as circumstances change.

Thanks for your continued support,

Mark McLay and the Pleasant Street Primary School staff

We are asking parents to increase their vigilance around internet safety on their children's devices over the holidays and in the event of school closures.

We recommend that if possible parents set up Apple Classrooms which allows parents to see activity and monitor screen time. Apple Classrooms is an iOS app for supervision and not an online classroom app like Google Classrooms. It can be downloaded onto a parent's Apple device, if available.

Please check privacy settings and restrictions on your child's devices.

[Follow this link for more information.](#)

It is important that parents and guardians what your children are reading and viewing in the apps they are using. Common Sense Media can provide information regarding age restrictions and appropriate content for certain apps. The e-Safety commission is another reliable website for parents that includes a comprehensive guide for parents and guardians. This is also where you can report inappropriate online behaviour.

Please be mindful of social media apps such as TikTok which have age restrictions in their usage agreements and may have inappropriate content that is hard to track.