

APRIL 10 2020

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Pleasant Street Primary School

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Guardians,

As you are aware, the situation regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the early commencement of the Term 1 holidays.

The Victorian Government has now advised that all schools will move to remote and flexible learning when students return for Term 2 on Wednesday 15 April. **This means that all students who can learn at home must learn from home.** This is a very clear directive by the Victorian Government **based on the advice of the Chief Health Officer.** All students will be learning from home, except for children on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. **If you believe you meet the criteria to send your child to school please read this document carefully as there is an application process that must be followed.**

This is not an action being taken lightly, and I understand it may cause you and your family concern and stress. Please know this step is being taken to slow the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of all Victorians.

Most of our teachers will also be working from home. All of them have been working hard to put curriculum plans in place to ensure continuity of learning and to support the wellbeing of all our students.

This is clearly going to be a challenging time for all of us. It's going to be critically important that we work very closely together to ensure that we provide the very best possible support for the ongoing wellbeing and learning of our students and your children.

This [factsheet](#) provides ways you can support your child during this transition. The Department of Education and Training's [Learning from Home website](#) also provides information and resources for parents and carers. Further information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can be found on the [Department's website](#), which will continue to be updated as the situation evolves.

Thank you for your support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mark McLay

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Frequently Asked Questions

Is the school open if I need to send my child?

If your child **can** learn from home, they **must** learn from home.

The DET guidance states that **all students will be learning from home**, except for children on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. This will only be available for children of parents who cannot work from home and vulnerable children.

At school we will be providing supervision for students to complete their remote learning.

If students can learn from home, they must learn from home.

If your child must attend school for supervision, you must fill out and return the Attendance Form by **Thursday 3pm one week before supervision is required (or 3pm Good Friday this week)**. A separate Compass with this form will be sent shortly.

What will remote learning look like at Pleasant Street?

We have developed a whole school Remote Learning Plan (formerly Home Learning). At Pleasant Street, we will be using Google Classrooms as our hub for all remote learning. We have set up a Google Classroom for each learning area - Foundation, Year 1/2s, Year 3/4s, Year 5/6s and all students have been provided with their Google log ins. All work will be allocated through the Remote Learning Google Classrooms so it is the only place you have to go.

Remote Learning begins Wednesday 15th April.

How will the work be communicated?

The work will all be sent out via Google Classrooms. Monday to Thursday there will be lessons for Reading, Writing, Numeracy and an Inquiry lesson. Each day a different Specialist lesson will be available. On Fridays, students will have the opportunity to participate in a Performing Arts and/or STEM Challenge and consolidate or extend any lessons for the week.

When will the work come out?

All lessons will be scheduled to be available at 9.00 am each day, starting Wednesday 15th April. This means you only have to log in once a day if you wish.

What will the work look like?

Most lessons will be a simple instruction, delivered via a pre-recorded video. You will be able to replay the video as many times as needed. There will also be written instructions for adults or older students to read. Student work may be completed using the iPad or offline using paper, drawing and writing tools or materials from around the house. It is up to individual families to decide.

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How do students submit work?

Students submit all work through Google Classrooms. We have created a website with video tutorials to show you how to submit your work at <http://pspshomelearning.weebly.com/>

Do students have to complete all of the work set?

There is no expectation that all of the work set has to be completed and uploaded. Students only have to complete as many tasks as they can, depending on their circumstances. There are no due dates and work can be uploaded at any time. We would like to emphasize that families just do the best that they can in this extraordinary time.

How can students communicate with teachers?

If students have a question about their work, they can message their teacher through Google classrooms. Teachers will also be online throughout the day to answer questions in 'real-time' in the Stream. These times will be available on a timetable in the Remote Learning classrooms.

How can parents communicate with teachers?

We encourage all parents who have questions for their child's teacher to do so via their Compass email. We would like to ensure that Google Classrooms is essentially just for the learning tasks and any more detailed questions should be emailed directly to staff.

How long will students' work take?

We invite students to do some reading, writing and maths each day, as best you can. The work set is in line with DET guidelines.

What about specialists?

The specialist teachers have been working hard to be able to deliver some engaging activities to do at home. There is more detailed information about this below.

Will students get feedback on their work?

Yes, students will get written feedback from a teacher.

Will the feedback be straight away?

Feedback will be given in a timely manner, but delays may occur due to some staff working part time and staff that are required on site.

Will there be live video conferencing?

At the moment we are not using any live video conferencing.

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I have a child in Year 1 and Year 2 - will the work be the same for them?

Yes, the work set for the students in Years 1 and 2 (and 3/4 and 5/6) will be the same. This aligns with the Victorian Curriculum structure. However, we are trying to make the work deliberately open-ended so that students will be able to access it at their own levels. Our teachers know our students well and will set work that is at the right level for them. Students are welcome to add as much detail as they like.

For example; a reading lesson may be a pre-recorded video of a teacher reading a book and looking for punctuation in the book. Students will then be asked to look through their own book and find the punctuation. We would expect Year 2 students to be able to find and tally all of the punctuation in the book, where Year 1 students might just find full stops and capital letters.

Can I call the school?

Yes, between 8.30am and 1.00pm the office will be attended and taking calls. The best way to contact individual staff is via their Compass email. Any questions about Remote Learning should be directed to classroom teachers or Helen Romeril or Sacha Giurietto through Compass Email.

My Prep child does not yet have an iPad. Should I purchase one?

Google Classrooms can be accessed from any internet-enabled device. Prep students at Pleasant Street Primary School are normally asked to bring their own iPad from Term 3. If circumstances allow and you would like to purchase one earlier to support Remote Learning, please contact the school. If you are having difficulties accessing a device for your child, please contact Mark McLay before Thursday 16th April.

I do not have internet access for Remote Learning.

If you are having difficulties accessing the internet for your child, please contact Mark McLay before Thursday 16th April.

What does this mean for mid-year reports?

At this stage, we have no information from DET regarding mid-year reports.

Specialist Comments

Art - Melissa Pearce

I will be providing one art activity each week. I need to keep in mind that some families will not have art supplies on hand. The main lesson I set each week will only require the use of basic supplies. E.g. pencils, textas, scissors, plain paper and a glue stick or sticky tape. I understand that some students will be keen to create lots of artworks and may have some other art supplies available to them. I will provide suggestions of extra art activities that could be completed at any time. Art lessons will be posted each Monday. I will be commenting on all artworks that are submitted. As always, I cannot wait to see the children's artworks!

P.E - Steve Eichler and Jessica Ralston

Each Tuesday a PE lesson will be posted for you to try and complete over the week at a time that suits you and your family. All of the PE lessons will try to use minimal equipment and incorporate everyday items that you can find around the house. Instructions will be provided to students on a weekly basis in a variety of formats, outlining tasks and expectations for that week. We encourage students to be active for 30 minutes a day. You might like to go for a bike ride, a walk, try some skipping or even jumping on the trampoline if you have one. We would love to see some of the creative ways you can come up with to stay active over this term. Also, keep an eye out for some of the challenges Mr E and Jess will post throughout the coming weeks.

Japanese - Hayley Marie

For Japanese this term, students will be learning about the cultural aspects of Japan and further elements of the Japanese language. After receiving feedback from students last term, all grades expressed an interest in learning about Traditional Foods, Art, Sport & Animation. To engage students at home, I have continued these focuses throughout this term. Japanese lessons will be uploaded on a Wednesday and feedback will be provided throughout the week. All Japanese lessons for this term are intended to be engaging, hands-on and continue to interest all students through art, filming, projects, song, dance & acting.

Performing Arts - Sarah Loudon

Performing Arts will be looking a bit different in Term 2! I will be posting Performing Arts lessons on Friday mornings and I would love to see students' responses to the tasks and encourage them to repost their performances. As this is new to all of us it will be a bit of a learning curve and I will be trying different types of lessons to see what works best. My plan at this stage is to have a variety of lesson ideas and the students can select one that they would like to try. If your child is learning an instrument I would love to see how they are progressing. I look forward to seeing the students' talents shine during this time!

STEM - Dave McConchie and Steve Eichler

Each Friday we will be setting a STEM challenge for you based on the Victorian Curriculum. It will be something that you can do with everyday items around home. We look forward to seeing what you come up with!