

TERM 2 – FLEXIBLE AND REMOTE LEARNING FROM HOME (sent via Compass News Feed 7/4/20)

Dear Families,

We write to you today to share information regarding the changes to the education provision of our students in Term 2. This morning, the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews and the Minister for Education, James Merlino, officially announced that from the start of term two, **all students who can learn from home must learn at home.**

To increase physical distancing across the population and slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), children in Victorian government schools will therefore be moving to **remote and flexible learning and care** at the commencement of Term 2.

Please note that Tuesday April 14th is a student -free day for all Victorian schools.

The school term officially commences for students on WEDNESDAY April 15th.

ALL STUDENTS WILL BE LEARNING FROM HOME, EXCEPT FOR STUDENTS IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- a. Students who cannot be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made, that is, for those children of parents who cannot work from home,
- b. Vulnerable children, including:
 - children in out-of-home care
 - children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm
 - children identified by the school as vulnerable.

ON-SITE PROVISION

- On-site provision will be available at all government schools, but only for students in the categories listed above, for the purpose of providing continuity of teaching, learning and support.
- The learning program delivered on-site **will be the same as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning.**
- Students learning on-site will be supervised by an on-site teacher but not necessarily the child's regular class teacher. Students will follow the teaching and learning program provided remotely by their classroom teacher. Please also note that on-site class groupings are likely to be multi-age, not necessarily grouped according to year levels or abilities.
- Class sizes will be no more than a ratio of 1:10. To ensure physical distancing of at least 1.5 metres is followed.
- When on-site learning is provided:
 - i. Physical distancing will be implemented in classrooms to the extent feasible,
 - ii. Unwell students will be excluded from attending,
 - iii. Hand sanitiser will be available at the entry points to classrooms and education will be provided on effective hand hygiene,
- To ensure consistency with physical distancing measures, students and families will not be permitted to congregate at the school gate or within the school grounds before or after school and will be required to maintain 1.5 metres between persons as far as is practicable on entering and leaving the school grounds.
- All Bellbridge Primary School teachers, education support and staff will be working remotely during Term 2. **We will communicate further information to you regarding contact methods and availability on Tuesday April 14th, which is a student- free day.**

ACCESS TO TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AT HOME

- **Further communication will be provided to you on Tuesday April 14th** which will clearly outline how and when students will receive learning materials and feedback, including full details of remote login as required. This will also outline what is expected of students in relation to the completion of learning tasks.
- For students who do not have access to any digital technologies at home (such as laptops, desktops, iPads, tablets), we are currently working on a strategy for our school to loan existing school-owned devices to those students who usually use a school device in Years 4 - 6. The Department is examining ways to provide network access for students who may not be able to connect at home. More information about this will be provided in the coming days.
- Where it is not possible for students to have any digital access, and for those children in Years Prep-3, we will provide learning resources via the COMPASS portal and as necessary, hard copies of these materials (which will require families to pick up the materials from onsite).
- Wherever possible, teachers will be supporting the differentiated learning goals of each student.

It is imperative that we develop a roster of skeleton staff this week, whom we will require to be at school commencing Wednesday April 15th.

PLEASE ACTION

If you believe you will need supervision for your child because as parents you are unable to work from home and no other arrangements can be made, or for any other reason according to the categories listed above, please email me, Debbie Clancy, ASAP (preferably no later than Thursday April 9th) at clancy.debra.j@edumail.vic.gov.au, or you may call or text me on my mobile 0407828327. These contact details can be used at any time regarding any student health and wellbeing matter you may have over the coming period.

We appreciate that making this transition is understandably going to be challenging for us all. I thank you for your continued support of our school and I also extend my thanks to our staff for the huge amount of work that has been, and is being, done to ensure we can continue to support the wellbeing and learning of all Bellbridge Primary School students during these increasingly challenging times.

Please take care and stay safe at home,

Warm regards,

Debbie Clancy

Principal