

BELLBRIDGE NEWS



Bellbridge Primary School

Individual Paths, United Journey

Bellbridge Primary School

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We are now in STAGE 4 Restrictions

All students who can learn at home must learn from home.

We are working together (online) and staying apart (at home)
so we can be back together at school as soon as we can!

We miss you and we know you miss your teachers and support staff.

[Do you know any of these people behind their masks?]



HOME SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS are SO IMPORTANT for EVERYONE

Stage 4 Restrictions have been in place for two weeks and we really appreciate the on-going support from our families with the changing circumstances and categories related to on-site supervision and home learning.

Our staff are committed to assisting families in maintaining home learning that is as effective and productive as possible.

The main focus with home learning is communication, especially communication between teachers, students and parents. We understand that most parents are not teachers and are doing the very best they can whilst trying to balance the needs of their children (some homes have several children ranging from Kindergarten – VCE), their work commitments, as well as caring for other family members.

So, if you find that you are feeling confused, stressed, frustrated or have any questions about your child's learning, here are some things you can do:

- Phone the classroom teacher
- Email the classroom teacher
- Contact the classroom teacher via the Google Forms daily check-in (where you can request a phone call)

It's also important to know that there a range of strategies that families can put in place if/when they are feeling challenged or overwhelmed by their home learning situation:

- Parents can manage the format/timetable of the learning each day to fit in with family commitments, though it's important that students attend their Class Meeting each morning, if possible.
- Teachers are willing and able to provide 1:1 learning chats with students via MS Teams or a conference phone call with parents included – this can help clarify any questions or concerns about learning tasks.
- Parents can collect hard copies of weekly learning tasks after 9:30am each Monday, as this may assist some students (and parents) who work better with tasks on paper.
- If parents feel the daily learning online (MS Teams) is not working for their child at any time, they can choose to engage their child in online learning tasks featured on the school web page (Maths, Reading, Spelling.....), BUT, please contact the teacher to let them know this is your choice for a certain day so they won't expect your child to log-in or check in on MS Teams that day.
- If you feel your family needs to 'take a break' from learning – give yourselves permission to take a day off from learning tasks – the welfare of your family is your top priority. (Please inform the teacher of your decision so they do not attempt to make contact with you throughout the day and can support you when your child returns to daily learning tasks online).

Some additional resources for parents and children to access if additional support is required include:

- **PARENTLINE: 13 22 89** Parentline is a phone service for parents and carers of children from birth to 18 years old. They offer confidential and anonymous counselling and support on parenting issues.
- **LIFELINE: 13 11 14** Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing emotional distress with access to 24 hour crisis support.
- **KIDS HELPLINE: 1800 55 1800** Kids Helpline is a free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.

ATTENDANCE DURING REMOTE LEARNING & HOME LEARNING IS VERY IMPORTANT

Our teachers attempt to contact families every day if/when students do not appear to be attending to learning tasks at home – this includes not completing the daily check-in on Google Forms, not participating in daily class video meetings, and not uploading designated learning tasks via MS Teams or email.

After 3 consecutive days of no evidence of students engaging in learning expectations, and repeated attempts made by a teacher to communicate with parents and students, the concern about lack of attendance and engagement is referred to our Assistant Principals who oversee Welfare (Mrs Baldock: P-2 and Miss Jarvis: 3-6).

If our Assistant Principals are unable to make contact with families, their concerns about student/family welfare and wellbeing are referred to local agencies, which may include DHHS, Child First, Anglicare and Police.

PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL IF YOU NEED ANY ASSISTANCE OR SUPPORT

PARENTS MAY NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL GROUNDS unless it is deemed to be essential

If parents need to be on-site, they must minimise their time, practise physical distancing and wear a mask or appropriate face covering. They must also STOP at the front door of the school and wait for assistance from office staff before entering the building.

Reasons to be on-site may include:

- Making payments, e.g. netbooks
- Collecting laptops or hard copies of learning tasks
- Picking up a child for an appointment during the school day
- Collecting a child who is sick and needs to go home

The office is open between the hours of 9:00 - 12:00 each day. If you need to visit outside of these hours, please contact the office prior to arrange an appointment (9749 6161).

SCHOOL TOURS and STUDENT ENROLMENTS FOR 2021

All enrolments for 2021 are being managed using an online process that is accessible via our school web page (<https://www.bellbridgeps.vic.edu.au/enrolments.html>). A virtual tour of the school is available (Powerpoint Presentation) as tours will not be conducted at school until we feel it is a safe and appropriate option for our students, staff and prospective visitors.

Enrolments will be managed by our Enrolment Officer. It is important to note that early enrolments assist with our planning for staffing and classes, as well as our Transition Program (typically held mid-Term 4). We are aiming for most Prep enrolments for 2021 to be completed by the end of Term 3.

Please note: All schools in Wyndham are directed to accept enrolments of students who live in the Designated Neighbourhood Area (DNA), which is also referred to as a 'zone', and proof of residence is required to complete an enrolment (e.g. rates notice, electricity bill, rental/purchase agreement).

If you know of any local families who have a child in kindergarten, it would be appreciated if you could encourage them to complete the enrolment process as soon as possible. They can contact our Enrolment Officer (9749 6161) if they wish to discuss aspects of the enrolment process.

TERM 3 REMOTE LEARNING SURVEY

Last term over 200 families responded to a parent survey about remote learning and the feedback contributed to adjustments, modifications and renewed approaches to home learning.

This week we are seeking feedback from parents about their experiences with remote learning this term (Term 3) which involved us working and learning under Stage 3 and Stage 4 restrictions.

All families received a message via Compass about the Term 3 Parent Survey on Tuesday, 19/8/20.

We look forward to your feedback and are keen to support you and your needs as we work together during this very challenging time.

Surveys need to be submitted by Monday, 24 August.

We look forward to continuing our supportive, positive and productive partnerships with all families at Bellbridge via our remote and flexible learning options until further notice.

Take care and stay safe.

Please feel free to contact me if you any other queries or concerns.

Take care,

Debbie Clancy

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Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

-  laptops & tablets
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To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*



* many Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information.

Contact

your local Saver Plus Coordinator

Phone or SMS

your name and postcode to 1300 610 355

Email

WerribeeSP@thesmithfamily.com.au

Online

saverplus.org.au

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