

Monday 6 April 2020

COVID-19 School Update - Week 11

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your ongoing support during our transition to remote learning under such extraordinary circumstances. We know how challenging it has been for many of you juggling work and family responsibilities, while taking a more direct role in supporting your child's learning experience, all while facing a crisis on a global scale.

So much has changed in a rapid time and as a community we are all adapting to these changes as best we can. Our students are accessing work across a variety of platforms and we are all learning to adapt to this 'new normal'. With that in mind, we have some important information to share with you about the final week of Term 1.

- The NSW Government is taking additional measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 through the community. To do this, parents and carers are strongly encouraged to keep their children home if possible.
- If your child needs a computer, or a dongle to connect to Wi-Fi, we have now received Department stocks to help you. **We do not expect students to be sharing a computer**, please call us urgently **before the end of term** to discuss with us how we can support you.
- We are continuing to offer supervision and care at school for students whose parent/carer is delivering frontline services to the community and not in a position to provide supervision to their children at home.
- In accordance with social distancing and other COVID-19 strategies, casual teachers and support staff have been attending school in the library.
- All students, at school and at home, continue to work on the same learning activities.

- **Home schooling is a completely different environment to school** and we therefore have moved, as from Term 2, to a simplified timetable with breaks in between each period to allow for stretching, eating and other essential activities (see document attached). Work and assessment has been contracted in all junior subjects in recognition of this fact.
- We encourage you to continue connecting with school staff and each other. If your child requires support or is sharing emotional challenges, please let us know. Counsellors are still available in an on-line environment.
- Term 1 officially ends on Thursday, 9 April and Term 2 commences Tuesday 28 April. Please allow teachers to have a restful break with their own families. They will be back in contact with students and families at the start of Term 2.

Our teachers are continually monitoring our implementation of online learning to address any issues, respond to feedback and investigate new ways to enhance the delivery of quality lessons. Our aim is to provide a balanced pedagogical approach that will be sustainable for our students, teachers and all families. Work will continue on developing a longer term education model for Term 2 and beyond in response to COVID-19.

Thank you for the patience, support and kind words you have provided over the past few weeks. All staff have worked tirelessly to not only create sustainable, meaningful learning experiences for our students but have continued to ensure that our school remains a key part of the Albion Park community. On behalf of all our teachers and staff, we would like to express how truly grateful we are.

The Department of Education has continued to update schools and communities about the COVID-19 with a [COVID-19 page](#) which includes FAQs, information about learning from home, and updates on non-operational schools.

We look forward to keeping you updated and working with you in Term 2. Our priority remains to plan for continuity of student learning and staying connected with all our students and families during this period of uncertainty.

Yours sincerely
Suzi Clapham



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