

**From the Principal**

**Attention Parents and Carers**

14th July, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

By now I am sure you would have heard the news that our Premier has extended online learning for another 2 weeks until the 30th July.

I know this is an extremely difficult time for everyone and is causing much anxiety amongst all our community, students, teachers and parents and carers. However, I know we will get through this difficult time with compassion, dedication and patience.

Firstly, I would l like to thank all those parents and carers who have been supporting their child or children at home and navigating the online learning space during the week. I would like to also thank all the teachers who are working behind the scenes to get the Learning from Home Frameworks up on our website and to support any of the concerns, issues or problems you may have been having.

During the next two weeks please remember to contact your child or children’s teacher through the social media platform of their choice and if you are unsuccessful in getting through then please call the school. Our fantastic office staff will direct your concerns or problems to the appropriate personnel. Please be patient if they take a short period time returning your call.

As we did this week, our online learning frameworks will be found on our school website and will be accessed the same way through the Learning from Home tab. We will endeavour to put up more additional resources that you will be able to access. Please keep checking the Learning from Home tab that you are all now familiar with to see what is available.

If your child or children get through their work on that day you are able to access the wonderful resources and activities available to you through the Department of Education ‘Learning from Home Hub’. Also remember, to tune in each day to Education Live on the Department’s website and Facebook, this feed is live at 10am daily. During this feed you will be able to watch a wonderful array of guest speakers deliver a master class in their chosen field. It is highly educational and very informative.

**Intervention Programs**

For those students who have been additionally supported through our intervention programs such as the COVID Intensive Learning Program and Quick smart we will endeavour to continue to deliver those programs remotely via Zoom. If your child or children is supported through any of these programs you will be contacted by the teacher or SLSO who supports them. They will discuss the timetable with you and how this is going to work.

**School Operations**

As stressed by our Premier, if you are an essential worker and are required to attend work then the school is open to support you and you are able to send your child or children. If you do not fall into this category the Premier has stressed that it is in everyone’s best interest to keep their child or children at home and participate in online learning. This is to support the Premier’s directive of staying at home and only leaving for essentials, thus containing the spread of COVID in the community.

Even though you may see a number of cars in our school’s carpark each day our school is still functioning on a minimum number of staff. This is to comply with the State Government and Department of Education Health and Safety orders. We would very much appreciate your support in following these directives.

**Communication and Devices**

If you need any devices to support your child we do have a small number of laptops that we will be able to loan out to you. Please call the school office to arrange a time collect. We would appreciate it if you could do this prior to coming up to the school.

Teachers will be communicating through various means some will be using social media platforms, some Google Classrooms and some will communicate via telephone or email. Please be patient and respectful of the different approaches, just like in classrooms not all teachers will teach the same way not all teachers communicate the same way. It is anticipated that your child or children’s class teacher will be in contact with them and or you each week using one of the methods outlined.

**Onsite Visitors and Canteen**

As per this week there will be no onsite visitors to our school while in lock down. This means the canteen will remain closed and there will be no therapists and parent helpers etc. Please make sure if you need to send your child or children to school they come with adequate food and a drink bottle.

**Entry and Exit from school**

We will continue with the same system that we have implemented this week. Thank you for your support in following these strategies.

Entry to the school will be through the front gate and the Support Unit gate, for students in the Support Unit. Exit from the school will be through the **Front gate for Rafter and Freeman** and **Back gate for Thorpe and Sauvage**. Children in our Support Unit and their siblings in the mainstream will use the Support Unit gate to enter and exit the school. School will finish at normal tine 3:10pm.

Once again, I thank you for the wonderful support we have received from everyone during this time. I know that we will continue to work together to ensure that everyone is supported. Please do not be hard on yourself if you are having trouble supporting your child or children during this time. We ask you to just try your best and if it is getting too much please take a break and enjoy some quality time with your child or children away from the computer. Your child’s class teacher will work hard to support you and them during this time and when we return to normal.

I will continue to keep you informed. Make sure you click on the Principal’s Update found in the Learning from Home tab on our website.

Yours in Education

Mrs Kathy Browne

Principal