



23rd April 2020

JUMBUNNA

Dear Families,

It has been wonderful to see and hear about some of the creative and fun approaches to learning from home that our students have been undertaking. We know it is not easy - like many of you, some of our teachers are working through the challenge of working from home whilst supporting their own children. Thank you for recognising how important this approach is in keeping us all safe.

I would like to reiterate that the team at BPS are here to support you. Our staff have been making and will be making phone contact with each family to check in with you. During these conversations and other contacts between home and school, a few common questions have been raised:

How can I teach my children and do my job?

You can't! Our teachers who have school-aged children are also trying to strike this balance, and we recognise that it is not easy. The most important thing to remember is that **parents are not teachers and we are not expecting you to teach your children**. You have a very important role to play: supporting and loving your children through this crisis.

This week we will share with you some ideas and resources that have worked for families around the world who have been on similar 'stay at home' orders for far longer than we have been. In the meantime, here are some things to remember:

- Your child WILL NOT be disadvantaged by a period of learning from home. On Friday, the ABC published an article about what happened with student learning when our neighbours in Christchurch had to close schools following the major earthquakes. It is well worth a read: [Does missing a term during COVID-19 really matter?](#) At BPS, we have GREAT teachers and staff; and when this is all over, we will apply our individual and collective professional skills and knowledge to ensuring that students at BPS are not disadvantaged by this period of learning from home.
- Teachers are aiming to set work that can be completed independently. Students in P-2 may require some guidance and help getting started. If this is not your child's experience, please contact the classroom teacher. We are still working, just remotely.
- Encourage your child to contact classmates and teachers through Google Classroom to ask for help or to work together on a task.
- Learning from home will need to look different in each home since every family has different resources. Our staff are all available to support you to establish routines that will work for you and your family.
- Teachers will post to Google Classroom between 2 and 3 hours of school work daily; however, as every child is different, some children will race through this work and others will take more time. This is OK. Students will share completed work with their teachers as requested. It may be that in your family, all uploading of work occurs in the evening when you would normally be doing 'homework.'
- Teachers will provide feedback to students on the quality of their work - you should not feel like you need to do this. As is the case during normal times, you should always feel

- If things are just not working one day or even for a few days, that is OK. Encourage your child to spend some time pursuing their own hobbies and creative pursuits at home - e.g. lego, making movies, reading, puzzles, drawing, writing poetry, sending letters to family members or friends. This is still learning. In fact, if your family and your child can manage the following each day, that will be more than enough:
 - READ something (or be read to: audio-books are great for all ages)
 - WRITE something (for very early writers, drawing IS a form of writing)
 - Do something CREATIVE
 - Do some PROBLEM SOLVING (cooking, card games, puzzles, lego, other games - all of these involve the use of mathematics and/or science skills)

Why can't my child just come to school?

The Victorian Premier, on the advice of Victoria's Chief Health Officer, has stated that everyone is to stay at home if possible, including children, and there are very good reasons for this. The Department of Education (DET) has advised Principals that schools are to have few if any children on site; they have further advised that it is the role of the Principal to ensure that each family who has children on site does not have family members working from home or studying from home or otherwise available to supervise children at home (or in the home of another relative or carer).

I know this is incredibly difficult for so many of our families and I thank you in advance for helping to keep Bonbeach PS and Victorian families safe at this time.

One of the best explanations about why it is so important for children to stay home with their families wherever possible is found in this BBC article, [Why children are not immune to COVID-19](#). Roughly half-way through this article, there is an important section about community transmission through children who may be showing mild or no symptoms but may still have COVID-19.

Support from Specialist Teachers

If you need support with any of the specialist activities, our specialist teachers will be available through Google Classroom during their normal working hours as set out below.

Mr Sandy:- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Mrs Batson:- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Bu King:- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Mr McCormack:- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Mrs Wicks:- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Mrs Turner:- Thursday, Friday

What should I do if we have issues with the online platforms or with our technology?

If the issue is around accessing or using Google Classroom, please contact your child's classroom teacher, via email. They will work through this with your child and with you.

If you need a device or are having difficulties with your device, please contact the school via email and we will get back to you ASAP. Email:- bonbeach.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Once again, thank you for your support and feedback at this time. I am sure like me you have heard this sentiment enough, but we truly are all in this together. We would all prefer to be learning at school. That is the easiest and most effective way to learn. Our success in stopping community transmission to the point that we can transition back to learning at school depends almost entirely on our ability to support one another to **stay home** wherever possible.

Specialist Classes

Please ensure that your child has joined all their specialist classrooms as well as their normal classrooms and upload their activities into the appropriate space. Feedback from the specialist teachers is that there is a number of students that have not uploaded set tasks yet.

Building Update

If you haven't been past the school in a while, you will get quite a surprise. The new building is really starting to take shape! We've included photos for those who haven't seen it. Roof is nearly finished, brickwork going well and windows probably in next week. The Preschool has all the framing done and the roofing and brickwork commences next week. The construction company, like everyone else at the moment, is having some holdups due to Covid19 but is still on schedule to finish by the end of 3rd term.

School Council

Last Tuesday we had our School Council AGM and first official meeting of the new School Council.

I am very pleased to announce that our office bearers for 2020 are as follows;

President:- Jonathan Cartwright

Vice President and Secretary:- Pam Paton

Treasurer:- Dave Griffiths

I would also like to thank again, Anita McKenzie and Kerryn Ash, the outgoing members who have dedicated so much time and effort over the years they have been on Council.

Kind regards,

Ken and Lisa





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Virtual Visits

Virtual Open Mornings	Wednesday 22 April and Friday 12 June Commencing 9.00am
Virtual Open Afternoon	Saturday 9 May Commencing 2.00pm
Virtual Talk and Tour with the Principal	Wednesday 20 May Commencing 4.00pm

We invite you online to explore the quality education and programs that your daughter will experience as a Kilbreda girl, all in the comfort of your own home!

Register today at kilbreda.vic.edu.au