



7th April 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

COVID-19 Update for parents

I hope that you and your family are all well. Thank you for your cooperation in switching to Learning from Home. I have been amazed how the staff and students have adapted so quickly. Every family is doing an amazing job in supporting the students. I know families are feeling overwhelmed and anxious about where the future will go but remember to stay positive. Each day I am hearing wonderful stories of how our students are engaging with their Learning from Home packages. The staff have told me about some of the problems that families are experiencing as well as some of the positive interactions happening in households during this unprecedented time.

Principals have been advised from the NSW Department of Education for School Operations that for the immediate future, social distancing measures will remain in place for the next 90 days. Therefore the current operational framework will remain in place for all of Term 2. Schools will continue to remain open for those families of essential workers and we will continue to monitor carefully the process of remote learning.

We understand that Term 2 will present something new. I have included a few tips below to help reduce the pressure on families as well as support and establish good habits at home.

I encourage parents to apply the KISS strategy. Keep It Simple Students

- Stick to the timetable provided and take up the opportunity to communicate with your child's teacher when available. All teachers will be online communicating via Seesaw, phone, email or via Google Classroom (Years 3-6) at set times during the day.
- Take breaks and engage with your family. At the end of the day we want families to be well.
- Accept there will be days where completing work packages or being online isn't possible, just like some days you may not have been at school. We are trying to make it as student centred as possible. Any work that gets done is appreciated.
- We are all in this together. We get it; it's hard! So please don't expect to be the best worker, teacher and parent all at the same time.

Supporting continuity of learning for all students

On Thursday 9th April 2020, you will have the opportunity to return Learning from Home packs from Term 1. Crates will be placed at the BUS BAY gates on Marathon Street for families to return their workbooks. Please make sure the student's name and class is clearly marked on the front of the pack. Work could be either stapled or in a plastic sleeve. Please note that there is no obligation or expectation to return the Term 1 packs but an opportunity if you wish. We understand that sometimes not all of the work is completed, it could perhaps be lost or ruined by a younger sibling.

The school will be providing learning materials to students to continue with learning while at home in Term 2. Our staff have been working hard (and will continue to do so) to develop Learning from Home packages in two week cycles for all of Term 2. Packages will be available for all K-6 students on paper and additionally, Google Classroom is an option for students in Years 3-6. Students who opt for the paper, offline version will not be disadvantaged as both options are the same. It would be worthwhile collecting the package regardless, as all students receive exercise books, stationary and additional reading materials.

For the students of Essential Service employees, variations to normal routines and structures will occur next term as they have done for the past 3 weeks. Social distancing is continually reinforced. Students at school will access learning in the same manner as students at home.

Learning at Home packages for Term 2 may be collected from the Marathon Street entrance (BUS BAY) between 10.30am - 2.30pm Monday, 27th April 2020 and 10.30am - 2.30pm Tuesday, 28th April 2020.

K-2 will upload these units to Seesaw if you wish to print the booklets at home. For students in Years 3-6, units will be available via Google Classroom, or uploaded to Seesaw or email if requested by the parents or carer. Please contact the class teacher via Seesaw, email or contact the school if you prefer this method.

Technology Support

Attached are details for accessing and using the various platforms available to students. Please contact the class teacher or call the school between 8.55am and 3.25pm if you require assistance.

Please remember that for any student or family who are not engaging at least weekly with the school or staying connected during Term 2, whether that be via phone, Seesaw, email or any other method of communication, the class teachers will be passing on such inactivity to myself so that a mandatory welfare check can be completed.

Remember every student is known valued and cared for at Westdale Public School. As a teacher I have felt your stress and anxiety levels rise, and I want to support you and your child. We can all do good things if we all work together.

We will endeavour to keep you updated with any changes to routine and will continue to provide school specific information as available.

Yours sincerely

Neshelle Battle
Principal

