



I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family well.

At this point in time, to the best of my awareness, all of our students, parents and staff are safe and well. I am not aware of any contact with the Coronavirus amongst the Beldon Primary School community which is something to be grateful for.

I do not need to tell you that we are living in extraordinary times. We all must understand that a **State of Emergency** and a **Public Health Emergency** have been declared. Stringent measures have been applied and this has had a profound impact on all schools.

Next week, the final week of Term 1, only the following children should be sent to school:

- Children of parents and carers who need their children to attend school to maintain employment
- Children who live in families with aged relatives
- Children where it is safer for them to be at school

Parents are expected to abide by this requirement and should not send children to school unless the above conditions can be demonstrated.

At this point in time, NO ANNOUNCEMENT has been made concerning schools in Term 2. However, we have been told that teaching and learning in Term 2 is going to look different. Students may be at home and supervised by their parents. We will need to utilise different, flexible learning methods, including technology-enabled tools, to deliver to our students differently.

Staff at Beldon Primary School will be undertaking some initial professional development in these technologies. It is going to take some time to become entirely proficient in utilising these systems, so we will start off using them

for basic tasks, such as keeping in contact with students before moving onto potentially delivering some instruction via these means. Staff are being provided with support using Connect, WebEx and Office 365, including Microsoft Teams.

We will provide advice to parents and students about how to access these platforms as time goes on, so stay tuned to our usual communication channels.

In the event that the Government continues to ask parents to keep students at home as a continuation of the strategy to manage the spread of COVID-19, the Government will allow schools to implement Alternative Working Arrangements for staff. Teachers and other staff may be rostered to work at home on work related tasks in support of social distancing measures. This will likely mean that only a skeleton staff will remain at school. Presumably the condition for student attendance established for the final weeks of this term will be applied and parents will be expected to adhere to them.

At Beldon Primary School, parents can expect a new work package to be made available at the commencement of Week 3 next term (Monday 11 May 2020). The work package will be distributed through Connect but arrangements will be made to provide hard copies where parents cannot print their own (see further information).

You can assist us to prepare for the coming weeks by attending to the following *actions* requested below.

I know that it is a very stressful and difficult time for parents. I know that there is a great deal of uncertainty and mixed messages about what school will look like in Term 2. We will continue to do our best to give you the information that you need as soon as it comes to hand. Geoff Elliott - Principal

FOR YOUR ACTION #1 - WEEK 10, TERM 1

Next week is the final week of term. Schools will only be providing supervision. In order to plan for those children who will need supervision, please respond to the survey that was sent last week. If you have not already done so, please click [HERE](#).

Please do the right thing. Thank you to parents for following the State Government's direction concerning school attendance.

FOR YOUR ACTION #2 - WORK PACKAGES

We are planning how we will deliver the curriculum next term. Our survey last week indicated that most families will be able to print work packages for students at home.

We would prefer that families were responsible for printing the work at home as this conserves resources, is more environmentally friendly and requires less logistical organisation. However, we realise that there will be a small number of households where this is not possible. If you are unable to print work packages at home, please click [HERE](#) to request a hard copy.

FOR YOUR ACTION #3 - TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

Thank you to the overwhelming number of parents who responded to the survey advising us of the availability of technology in their home. We are using the results to plan how we will deliver the curriculum next term. To complete the survey, please click [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY TOGETHERNESS - PENPALS

Mrs Alicia Smith has had a great idea for maintaining togetherness and positivity amongst our students. She is prepared to launch a project called *Penpals to Our Friends* to enable our students to keep in touch with each other. If you would like to be part of this project, please contact Alicia by email on aliciasmith478@gmail.com and let her know the names of the children that you would like to be included, as well as your address.