

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As it is the end of Term 1, I thought it might be a good idea to touch base with you to provide an update about the situation at Beldon Primary School. When reading this, kindly note that there is a meeting of Education Ministers from around Australia on Thursday afternoon which may change the situation I am describing below.

ACROSS ALL GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

As expected, schools will open for Term 2 on Tuesday 28 April. Parents should keep their children at home except in cases where there is a need to send children due to employment, are essential workers, or there are particular vulnerabilities that need to be overcome. If one of these criteria apply, parents may choose to send their children to school, however it is expected that most students will be learning at home.

In contrast to previous advice and messaging, staff are expected to be on site and will be working to support students working at home, as well as teaching those students who do attend school.

AT BELDON PRIMARY SCHOOL - SPECIFICS & SOME COMMENTARY

Providing off site learning:

Staff have been planning to provide support materials for offsite learning. We will be providing a second set of work packages to be made available for Week 3, being Monday 11 May.

The work packages will provide instruction for a 4-week period, and parents can expect to notice several improvements and enhancements when compared to the first package.

The work packages will:

- have a clear focus on English and Mathematics.
- be made available online using CONNECT.
- be available as a hard copy *only when requested*.
- contain the ORIGO math text.

Further advice will be provided early next term regarding distribution of these work packages.

We are also investigating how we can lend devices to families where there may not be a device available for student learning. We are working through some practical issues and will provide further advice early next term about if and how this will be done.

Staff have been accessing training sessions provided by the Department concerning online delivery platforms. These are quite new to staff and there is a way to go before staff are proficient and confident in the use of these platforms. We are making progress and we are determined to commence using them to have a degree of face to face contact with students next term.

The main platforms that staff will use are CONNECT and WebEx. Information has been sent to parents about downloading and using these platforms.

Providing on site learning:

- We only expect a small percentage of students to be on site.
- We will form composite or mixed grade classes for the students who attend. This will happen next term once student numbers are determined.
- The situation and the absence of some teachers will mean that your child is unlikely to be with their current teacher.
- There will be a focus on learning rather than supervision.

- We will be reducing the number of classrooms in use by students so that we can intensify cleaning of the rooms that will be in use. Your child may be working in a new location.
- Play equipment is currently shut down. This is likely to remain the case next term.
- A number of staff have school aged children. Where necessary and to keep these staff in a position where they can work, I will allow their children to join our classes.
- Social distancing practices will be implemented as far as is practical on a school site.
- Staff will be vigilant and will expect that students with coughs, sniffles and other symptoms of illness will not be at school.

This is an ever evolving situation and we need to expect changes to policies, messaging and expectations over the next few months. I thank all of our parents for their understanding. In particular, the many messages and gestures of support have buoyed the morale of staff.

Finally, I wish you and your families a safe and Happy Easter, and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Yours sincerely

Geoffrey Elliott
Principal