

SERPELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

11th April 2020

Dear Serpell Parents

As we approach the start of Term 2, I trust that this letter finds you safe, well and relaxing over the Easter break.

On Wednesday 15th April we will commence a new way of delivering a high quality education to our community. Our teachers and students are well prepared for this transition to remote on-line learning and we are confident that the teaching and learning program will continue to be effective.

Advice from the government and the Chief Medical Officer is as follows:

All students who can learn from home must learn from home - with exceptions in extremely limited circumstances. These are:

1. Children of parents who cannot work from home
2. Children identified as vulnerable

If you believe that your child or family fall into these categories, please email me at culton.wilma.v@edumail.vic.gov.au and I will send you the formal application form for enrolment. Children in these categories who come to school will only be supervised in doing the on-line learning that is taking place for the students at home. They will not be taught by their teacher. The school day will also be very different as they will not be permitted to use their regular classrooms or the playgrounds.

How will on-line learning work?

Each morning from Wednesday 15th April at 9am your child's teacher will take a rollcall via the blog. You will have access to the timetable and the planned activities. Each day will include English, Mathematics and PE. This term our Unit of Inquiry at each year level is Science and there will be lots of investigative activities for the children. Throughout the week they will also have Art and Language lessons.

In Week 1 we are only using the blog. We know your children very well and we know that they will be anxious. They are all familiar with the blog. We are also aware that there will be household pressure on the internet provision and we will not be taking it up with streaming or video. The first week will focus on establishing a routine and confidence in the learning platform.

The students will be very keen to use video conferencing. This will need to be hosted on a safe platform and the safety of students and staff managed effectively. We will keep in touch with you about any introduction of video in subsequent weeks.

Teachers will work from 9am – 3.30pm each day. The class teacher will be available for you. You can request a telephone call via the blog or the teacher's email.

Staff have been instructed by the government and Chief Medical Officer to work at home.

However, the school will be open with a skeleton staff for business and facilities operations and to care for vulnerable students. Nurse Mary will be on site each day and all persons entering the school will come through security and a compulsory temperature check.

How can parents assist at home?

We recognise that parents will be also working at home and will not be able to constantly monitor learning. With that in mind our activities will be largely independent. Naturally the Prep and Year 1 students will need an adult close by to keep the activity flowing. Years 2 to 6 can work quite independently.

1. Establish a consistent place where your child can work independently and still receive support when needed
2. Make sure that they have everything that they will need at the start of the day
3. Establish a normal routine of getting dressed and ready to learn, checking in at 9am, completing tasks, planning for break times, eating lunch, etc

Thank you all for your support in this very challenging time. Over the past 10 weeks we have appreciated so many parents giving professional advice and personal support in keeping our children happy and healthy. This is a new opportunity for us all to learn together – focussed on keeping us all as a community safe and well as we continue our work and education together.

Please email me if you have any concerns at all

Wilma Culton

Principal Serpell PS