



Brunswick South PRIMARY SCHOOL

imparare insieme ♦ creare insieme ♦ vivere insieme

21 April 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to Term 2, 2020. Sometimes we look back over previous newsletters to help us write the new one, but not this term! This one is like no other and certainly one that won't be forgotten! You can look back in your dotage, and say "I remember COVID 19 and all the learning was done remotely."

Home-School Partnership

Despite being a challenging start to the term, it's actually been a very positive one. Staff have pulled together to make the transition as seamless and successful as possible - making huge leaps in their own learning (specifically around technology). Students have shifted their approach to learning and are drawing on a range of skills in order to make meaning. Parents and carers are supporting remote learning in such a way that we are witnessing what is truly possible with a strong home-school partnership.

Devices have been handed out and most technical difficulties have been dealt with promptly. Staff have reached out to assist others who have required some extra assistance and our school community have worked together to manage this different and unprecedented time. A huge thank you to parents for supervising children at home to complete remote learning and for ensuring their children are maintaining social connections with their peers as much as possible through virtual catch ups.

Congratulations and thank you to our students, families and staff for showing incredible resilience and adaptability during this time. With minimal time, resources and training we have turned the whole system of education on its head!

Remote Learning Guide

After the first few days of remote learning we are sure you have some questions about how you can improve the experience for yourself and your family. To help, we have developed a Remote Learning Guide. This covers what remote learning does and doesn't look like, some ways you can structure remote learning around your family's routines and how you can support your child with their learning while encouraging them to become independent learners. The guide is attached to this letter and can be found on the Remote Learning Portal on the BSPS website. <http://brunwicksouthps.vic.edu.au/?project=remote-learning-portal>
Thank you Aydan (with some support from Maree) for putting this document together!

Online Platforms

From the start of this week, students are now engaging with their learning through virtual platforms; SeeSaw (F-2) and Google Classroom (3-6). We are fortunate to be part of these virtual classrooms and can see student learning and ongoing feedback from staff as we go.

Teachers began interacting with students 'face to face' for the first time this week and the squeals of excitement (from staff) as they saw students' faces on the screen certainly gave us both some joy.

We are asking families to continue to support remote learning by logging in each day and accessing the learning tasks. Our mantra is to start slow and build on our success. We can already see everyone is engaging at different levels and in different ways and we expect families are juggling many hats and will need to tackle this in their own way. There is no right or wrong way to do this and we are here to support you every step of the way.

Attendance

This week staff will begin tracking which students are and aren't engaging with the remote learning program. We will use morning meetings, learning task submission or contact with parents to help us identify who has not engaged with learning so we can better support individual students and their families.

Cyber Safety

Quite literally we are building the plane while flying it and naturally we will identify areas in which policy hasn't quite caught up to where we are. One particular area is around Cyber Safety and how we interact appropriately and safely online. While this has been covered in ways that are relevant to each learning area – we aren't quite equipped for this level of cyber interaction within our community.

What can you do to support your child to interact safely and responsibly online?

- **Regularly check in with your child:** some of you may find your children require more one-on-one support at the beginning of setting a new routine, but as these routines become normal and familiar it's important to check in during the day to see what they are doing, who they are interacting with and how they are conducting themselves online
- **Think about where your child is working:** we know that this may not be possible for every family, but it's recommended that your child's learning place is in a communal area. This helps them feel connected during the day but also allows you to tune in to what your child is doing.
- **Break up the day:** while the majority of our learning is now taking place 'virtually' it's important for your child (or us) to not be sitting in front of a screen all day. Breaking up the day with a walk, play outside or some physical activity will help us balance out the increased screen time we are all facing.
- **Communicate:** keep the lines of communication open so they can come to you if something online doesn't feel right.

Thank you everyone for your work in making the start of this term a positive one.

Trevor and Marg.