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## Remote and Flexible Learning for Families at Home - Term Two

Dear Parents,

As the media continually reinforces; this is an unprecedented time in history and change is the only constant at the moment! We are beginning a new phase in the COVID-19 landscape with the introduction of learning from home for the majority of students, and learning at school for a limited number of students. Both scenarios are quite different to anything we have witnessed before. We know that change can be painful, but also beautiful, and when we embrace change, we learn and grow from our experience. It will be a steep learning curve for parents, students and staff, and there's sure to be some challenges. Together we will find our way!

Some of you will be relishing this change, looking forward to supporting your children's learning, while others will be concerned about the expectations of you. Rest assured, you are not expected to be a teacher. As a loving parent, you are well equipped to support your child. We are providing a home learning plan; not homeschooling. Teachers have deliberately planned practical activities with easily accessible materials that will allow your child to work with limited support and assistance.

Your primary role is to ensure that your child feels happy, secure, connected and loved. Continuing to nurture your relationship, and ensuring your child's wellbeing and sense of calm will provide the ideal foundation for learning.

Teachers will offer a suggested timetable, and online and offline activities. Students respond positively to a familiar schedule. We suggest you keep your home routines regular, including times for waking, learning, play, chores and bedtime. Much of the usual school day involves discussions and other activities that we cannot replicate for home learning. In the absence of these activities, your child's formal learning is likely to finish earlier than normal. We have provided a list of extension activities for this time and we will introduce a new online portal, 'The Learning Space' (TLS), which hosts a range of activities and virtual learning experiences. This will continue to evolve as the term progresses. Stay tuned for updates on this.

If your child is challenged with another day of self-isolation, you are struggling to balance work and family commitments, or your day is just overwhelming, let go of the academic commitments for a little while and opt for less stressful activities that work for you; gardening, ABC TV, reading, playing in the backyard, a picnic, or even an afternoon nap. It will be ok!



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Below, you will find the answers to some questions that you might be asking. We will continue to revise these as we speak further with parents and families. Please remember that this is all new to us, too!

As always, we are here to support. Please let us know how we can help.

Happy learning and best wishes,

Chris



## Protocols for Remote and Flexible Learning

### Holy Rosary's Goals for Remote and Flexible Learning

1. To enable students to access a flexible learning program that provides continuity of learning between home and school
2. To build staff and student capacity in technology
3. To provide ongoing support for the diverse needs of learners
4. To maintain the ongoing health, safety and wellbeing of staff and students

Holy Rosary recognises that some families will not have access to suitable devices and therefore, provision has been made for students to borrow school devices. We are working to assist families with no internet access.

#### ***How will my child receive their learning each week?***

Each child from Years 3-6 has a Gmail account. Learning will be assigned by teachers via email by 8:30am each Monday directly to their email address. P-2 students do not have a Gmail account so parents will receive this email. In Week 1 emails will be sent by 8:30am on Wednesday. If you do not have internet access we will organise a hard copy of work until internet access is resolved.

#### ***How do I access a device?***

You will be able to borrow a school device by contacting us (if you haven't already done so). You can keep this device all term after you have signed a Loan Agreement. This stipulates that the device is only to be used for school purposes and it must be returned in the same working condition.

#### ***When can I collect devices and other resources from school?***

Last term we provided the opportunity for families to collect workbooks and other materials. You will need to come to school if you need a device or for families who have no internet and will require hard copies of work. The school will be open on Wednesday morning for this purpose. Please bring a pen for hygiene reasons. Collection will be from **the hall** at the following times:

Families whose last name begins...	Times
A-G	9:30am - 10:15am
H-N	10:15am - 11:00am
O-T	12:00pm - 12:45pm
U-Z	12:45pm - 1:30pm



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***I don't have internet. What will I do?***

We are awaiting Telstra dongles for families. In the meantime, we will make hard copy work available for your child.

***What online platforms will my child use?***

- Email is the primary source of communication.
- Google Classroom is the online learning platform we will use.
- Google Meet will be linked for class meetings and check-ins.
- Our online learning portal, 'The Learning Space', will provide links and learning for students to broaden their experiences.
- Google Drive allows staff and students to share and collaborate work.

***How will I be able to access these platforms?***

These platforms will be introduced by classroom teachers at different times depending on the needs and ages of students.

***Will all the work be on a device?***

There will be a balance of work to be completed on a device and work to be completed offline. It is important that students are not on devices for too long so our teachers will provide a selection of both.

***What happens if we need help with our device?***

You should email the class teacher for their assistance. If they can't help, they will ask Chisachi for support or our IT service technician. In the meantime, move on to other offline learning tasks.

***How does the teacher determine what will be taught?***

Each classroom teacher works collaboratively with their year level team, our Learning and Teaching Leader, Religious Education Leader and Learning Diversity Leader. The content comes from the Victorian Curriculum. Teachers have modified learning experiences to suit the home context.

***How much time should my child spend learning in each subject?***

The table below provides a guideline set by the Department of Education for non-negotiable learning. We have added Prayer and Religion to suit our Catholic context, specialist subjects in Prep-Year 2 and movement breaks away from the computer.



<b>Non-negotiable learning</b>	<b>Prep-2 time allocation per day</b>	<b>3-6 time allocation per day</b>
Literacy activities: reading, writing, handwriting	45-60 mins	45-60 mins
Numeracy activities	30-45 mins	30-45 mins
Prayer and Religion (may be integrated in other subjects)	20-30 mins	20-30 mins
Play based learning/additional learning/physical activity (including specialist subjects)	30-45 mins	
Additional curriculum areas (including specialist subjects)		90 mins
Movement breaks away from computer	At least 2 x daily in addition to play based learning	At least 2 x daily

***What other tasks could my child be learning or doing?***

<b>Suggested Tasks</b>	
Journal or other reflective task	Journal, make a movie, write or draw about your experiences of living through this time of self-isolation.
Household chores	Regular chores and learn new skills.
Practical Tasks	Learning phone number, address, tie shoelaces, how to call emergency services.
Other interests and hobbies	Music or sport practice, art etc.
Explore The Learning Space	Here you will find a range of exciting videos, links and virtual experiences.
Tasks related to specific learning goals	Eg: Learn multiplication facts, spelling, reading fluency, proofreading skills etc.



Personal Interest Learning- Learn a new skill or enhance one you already have	Learn to play chess, write stories, make movies, cake decorating, create a blog etc, meditate, learn to ride a bike.
Daily act of kindness	Look for ways to brighten somebody else's day. Send a card, make a phone call, write a poem, draw a picture etc.
Prayer and meditation	Learn a new prayer, use an app for a meditation, write a prayer, practise mindful colouring.

***What happens if my child doesn't finish the non-negotiable tasks?***

While we strongly encourage you to support your child to complete tasks, we understand that this is a challenging time so please communicate any issues or concerns with your child's teacher.

***I've emailed the teacher. How long will they take to respond?***

Teachers are available during school hours, as per a normal school week. They may not respond immediately because they will be working with students online, supervising at school, or planning future learning activities. They will respond as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours.

***How much contact should my child expect to have with their class teacher?***

Teachers will communicate with students in a variety of ways. This will include regular emails and depending on the age, Google Meet. Our new Learning Space will also provide ways to keep students and families connected to school.

***What happens if my child doesn't participate or have contact with teachers?***

The classroom teacher will make contact with your child, and then if there is no further response, contact will be made with the parent.

***What do I need to do to support my child's learning?***

- Modify the suggested timetable with your child, according to family needs.
- Provide a suitable learning space with a table or desk set up where adults are present (could be at the kitchen table).
- Engage in conversation about your child's work.
- Monitor the time spent online to ensure this is appropriate for your child's age and that it suits the needs of other family members.
- Provide headphones, if required (School supplies cannot be shared due to health risks.)
- Support any check-ins your child may have with a teacher or Learning Support Officer.
- Encourage attendance to video forums or workshops offered by teachers.



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- Support emotional wellbeing by providing time for reflection, play, conversation, chores, physical activity and other hobbies and interests.
  - Check your emails regularly for school communication.
  - Keep a regular family routine, as much as possible.
  - Email staff if you or your child require support. An email list is provided.
  - Take photos or videos of your children and share them with us so we can see how your child's learning is going. Let us know if you are happy to share the photos on Facebook.
  - You may need to spend some time helping your children with their learning; but generally they should be able to complete tasks independently. It's good for them to 'have a go' at solving problems on their own, and they can check in with their teacher if they need additional support.

***What if my child has additional needs?***

Your first point of contact is your child's classroom teacher. Have a discussion with them and determine how to best support your child. You may also contact Antoinette for further guidance. If your child usually works with a Learning Support Officer and/or Intervention Teacher this will continue in a manner that supports remote learning.

***What if the work is too easy or too hard for my child?***

Your child's teacher assigns the work for your child and will be aiming to pitch it at the right academic level. For optimal learning, tasks should not be too easy or too challenging but they should stretch your child. If after persisting the task is still too hard, your child should email their class teacher.

***What will I do if I have concerns about my child's learning?***

Your child's class teacher is your first point of call. Contact them via email for any issues with learning. Contact with Learning Support Officers may be done via the classroom teacher.

***What will I do if I am concerned about my child's emotional wellbeing or that of my family?***

If your child is feeling stressed or anxious, please encourage them to speak to an adult. They could speak to one of the five people in their personal safety network. They could contact Holy Rosary staff. They could be encouraged to take some time out, to try some deep breathing or a meditation, or some mindful colouring.

We can help your family in so many ways. You and your child/children are not alone. As Mother Teresa says, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other". You may need some reassuring words when the going gets tough, a virtual hug, a home cooked meal, someone to pick up some school supplies, medicines or a book to read. Please call or email Chris or Ruth at school and we will point you in the right direction in no time at all! There's a wonderful staff and parent community ready to support your family. And, if you need help to meet the cost of your fees, we can help there, too. Please speak to Chris about this.



***How will I ensure my child's safety while online?***

- Monitor your child's activity while online, ensuring devices are used in shared areas and out of bedrooms.
- Devices loaned from Holy Rosary School are only provided for online learning. They should be put away after school activities are complete.
- Check your child's browser history regularly.
- Email your child's teacher if you observe inappropriate online behaviour. Do not contact other parents or students in this situation.
- For issues that may impact child safety call Christine 9376 9455.
- The esafety website provides some excellent material to support online safety  
[www.esafety.gov.au/parents](http://www.esafety.gov.au/parents)

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