



19 April, 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope that you and your family have been travelling well over the past week. The overall feedback of home learning has been very positive considering the short transition time staff and families had to move to remote and flexible learning. Teachers report positively on the way students are engaging with tasks, asking questions, and working to resolve problems.

Remote and Flexible Learning- Term 2

On Wednesday, Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Dr Brett Sutton, stated:

'My advice to the Victorian Government was and continues to be that to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), schools should undertake remote learning for term two.'

'This is because having around a million children and their parents in closer contact with teachers and other support staff has the potential to increase cases of coronavirus not just in schools, but across the community.'

'By having remote learning, it can contribute to physical distancing and therefore supports efforts to drive transmission down.'

What impact will this time away from school have on my child's learning?

John Hattie, educational researcher and author cites several international examples of students who have had extended periods away from the classroom due to disasters. In these examples, students have had limited/no planned learning and the impact has been minimal. Our students have access to learning and support, and although we can't replicate school learning they are learning in a myriad of ways. Parents are powerful educators! Read the [article from John Hattie](#).

We need to remember that all students are in the same position in many countries across the world. Teachers are qualified to assess where your child is at, and then make adjustments to best suit them when they return to school. Every year, children have time away from school for travel or illness, and lost ground is made up. We will be mindful of this in our planning when school resumes. Our first job is always to review student data before planning learning. On return to school we will assess our students again. Our teachers are supported by very experienced teachers in learning and teaching; Maria, Sonya and Antoinette. They will be very mindful of leading staff to explicitly plan for students in ways that will meet their specific needs.

Communication

With consultation, we decided this year that our primary form of communication would be via email. We ask families to check emails regularly and to advise the office of changes to email addresses. We will also use the following forms of communication:

Newsletter- a weekly update of school news and short term calendar events sent via email. During Term 2 this is replaced by emails to ensure families are kept up to date in a timely manner, with information on the changing landscape due to Covid-19.

Website- a place to access established processes and protocols. A calendar of events is also provided for reference to school dates. Past newsletters are stored here. The website also serves as information for prospective families.

Skoolbag-a push notification is only sent when short notice is provided and quick action is required eg: extreme weather requires an early collection of students or a head lice alert.

Facebook- Supporting information, reminders, tips, photos of students engaged in work, and strategies are shared. This forum allows families to subscribe/unsubscribe as they prefer.

The Learning Space- Designed with students in mind. Online and offline activities support student learning.

Right message to right staff member

Direct your emails to your child's classroom teacher or the specialist teacher in the first instance. They are best placed to resolve questions about class learning and troubleshooting issues with email and Google Suite.

As we have a skeleton staff, please minimise contact via phone during Term 2. Anne and Lynette are both working from home and will access email and respond to your queries.

Anne and Nadia will access emails directed to frontoffice@hrkensington.catholic.edu.au. Lynette - accounts@hrkensington.catholic.edu.au.

New programs and learning opportunities

You can access ideas to supplement class learning via Facebook. We have shared some quick activity ideas and also some competitions we think could be suitable learning for your children. Remember, that learning comes in many forms and we love seeing our children learn in practical ways; cooking, constructing, movie making, puppet shows, making music, experimenting.

Sunshine Online



We have paid for access to Sunshine Online for all Prep-Year 2 students. Teachers will also use it as a resource for students in Year 3-6. This program allows your child to access 650 levelled e-books and 1000 interactive activities with a focus on phonics, comprehension, fluency, spelling and writing. Your class teacher will assist you with the information to log on to this resource.

Epic

Epic is also a reading platform. It has a free membership for Term 2 that teachers will invite students to join.

The Learning Space

We have developed a Google site as a reference for students. Students and their families will be able to access a range of online and offline activities to support their learning. The site provides class pages, ideas to enhance learning in subject areas, reminders of the school behaviour expectations (which we expect students to live by in the home learning situation), ways to develop spiritually through mindfulness and meditation, and examples of children who inspire and motivate us to live in ways that promote our Mercy values; quality relationships, respect, resilience, integrity and kindness. Class teachers will introduce this to our students but we encourage you to explore the site with your children as an extension to their class learning. We encourage students to share their videos to this site, via their class teachers.



GoogleMeet Protocols

We have been using GoogleMeet for staff meetings, and after some initial teething issues, we have found this is a helpful way to maintain communication. This week students will be introduced to GoogleMeet. This forum will allow teachers to talk with students to share information and explain learning in greater detail than email. Classroom teachers will share the following protocols with students to help keep them safe in the online learning environment.

- Students will log into GoogleMeet via an invite sent by their class teacher through Google Classroom.
- When logging on cameras and microphones will remain off until teachers invite students to participate.
- Class rules continue in this forum (eg: the teacher initiates discussion and invites responses)
- Students may not initiate or respond to chat conversations with other students
- The Class Teacher will remain in the GoogleMeet until all students have signed out to ensure that all chat is completed

At the beginning of each GoogleMeet session teachers will share the following script (or a variation suited to your child's age group)

Greeting: Good morning Everyone
Welcome to today's session.

Before we begin today, you need to have an adult supervising you and you should be in an area where you can do your best learning. Where possible, you should be near a blank wall and have your device facing towards the adult who is supervising you. You should not be in your bedroom.

Your microphone and camera should be off until I tell you to turn it on. I will lead the session and your job is to listen and take notes on a note pad/your book beside you. If you have a question at the end, you'll raise your hand or use the emoji, and wait until I call on you, just like in class. The typing function should not be used unless I tell you to use it.

If you need to leave the session, you will leave without interrupting and we can catch up later. I will tell you when our session is finished.

Specialists and Intervention Staff

Science, Physical Education, Art, Music, Japanese and Intervention programs offered by Specialists and Learning Support Staff will be in full operation this week.

Those who access intervention programs will receive further information regarding times directly from staff. This includes Super Readers.

ABC Education TV



Primary education programs run in the mornings from 10am. You can check the schedule at abc.net.au or via our Facebook page.

Helpful tips

Here's some quick tips we picked up from parents this week that MAY serve you well:

1. Take a walk/ride in the morning as if you are coming to school before returning home to begin work.
2. When you have to take a work call/participate in an online meeting ask your children to continue to work and to write their questions on a note pad beside them, or record a verbal message on their device for reference when your call is finished.
3. Children wear school uniforms to recognise they are in learning mode and take them off when their school day is complete.

Parent Reminders

1. Happy, calm children learn best. Keeping your child calm and connected is your main role.
2. Modify timetables to fit in with your family needs. This has to work for you and your child.
3. Learning happens in a variety of ways. It's ok to play board games, watch tv together, climb trees and do chores. It's all learning.
4. Be kind to you. Multitasking is challenging. Balancing work, home learning and running a family in a stress filled world is hard. Let go of those things that are causing you anxiety.

Inform and Empower

Last week we offered a webinar for parents about student safety in an online learning forum. It was led by a primary teacher and a psychologist. All parents can access this webinar until 26 April. We strongly encourage this. Here's the [link](#) and the password is parents2020.

Photos

If you would like to share photos or written reflections of your child's home learning, that would be wonderful. We encourage students to share their learning through drawing, writing, photo or video. Sharing ideas and reflections encourages connection. It promotes positivity and this is much needed in this turbulent time. Staff love seeing and hearing how students are going and I am sure other parents feel the same.

Prep 2021

We have sent enrolment acceptances to all families who have enrolled for 2021. If you know someone who may be interested in Prep (or for limited spaces in other year levels) please ask them to give us a call. While school tours are not an option at the moment, I will spend the time to share information about Holy Rosary, and answer questions families may have.

What chores could my child be doing?

Check this blog for some [age appropriate chores](#) your children can do around the house.

Onsite students

The Government advice remains-

If your child can learn from home your child MUST learn from home.

These students access the same learning with remote access to their teachers. The vast majority of staff are working from home. The only regular onsite staff are Christine and Maria. Onsite learning is supervised by a variety of teachers and Learning Support Officers throughout the week. These staff are also juggling the demands of supporting their classes remotely.

We remind parents of students who are learning onsite; they must bring items from home to pursue independent activities during down time. This may include colouring, reading, crosswords, small puzzles, knitting, sewing, drawing. They may also pursue independent Genius Time activities such as photography, poetry writing, movie making, learning a speech, entering a competition that uses skills like writing, drawing or designing.

Anzac Day

Sonya will share a prayer and some ways you can engage with your family in preparation for Anzac Day.

Help and Support

If you think the Holy Rosary community can assist you or another school family please let us know. We can help with meals, to pick up medicines or shopping, to drop things to your front patio, to provide a friendly ear, or a host of other ways. Let us know how we can help.

Religious Education Packs

Sonya has prepared some hard copy packs on Creation for students in P-2 to accompany the online RE unit for Term 2. This links to work in inquiry on sustainability and stewardship of our world. Last week, some families picked up loan devices and collected an RE pack then. If you don't have a pack, they will be available outside the Church this Friday 12:00-12:30. To reduce numbers, it would be appreciated if you could arrange to pick up additional packs to distribute to other families by leaving them in their letterbox/front porch. The packs will be arranged in alphabetical order according to surnames. Please commence working on the pack only when your child's teacher communicates they are ready to begin.

Sending every best wish to families for a happy and healthy week,

Chris