

Tuesday 14 April 2020



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Dear Parents and Carers of Broadbeach State School,

I have been impressed with some of the creativity and ingenuity that many families have displayed to make the most of the changed conditions associated with the recent physical and social distancing restrictions. I am aware of many DIY projects around homes throughout Australia in varying states of progress and that children have been introduced to some of the activities that used to be commonplace when I was a child.

It is apparent that the social distancing restrictions are having a positive impact on the spread of COVID-19. Limiting congregations of people has reduced the risk of transmission throughout the community. Whilst sadly, some lives have been lost, the reduction in the numbers of new cases is promising. Our Prime Minister and Premier and those from whom they are taking advice, have been very clear that this will take time to conquer and that everyone must play their part.

Those of you monitoring the media on this topic, will have heard this week that **“all state school students will move to a home-based learning model** from Monday 20 April until at least Friday 22 May”. This arrangement supports the Government’s plan to arrest the spread of COVID-19 by keeping people at home. In her media statement on 13 April, the Premier stated, **“What this means is that from the start of Term 2, all students who can learn from home are to stay at home.”**

The information delivered by the Premier, the Minister for Education and the Director-General of Education, advised that **“all students will be learning from home, except for students in the following categories”**:

- Children of essential workers (**an essential worker means** any worker who must continue to attend their workplace for essential business during this time) on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made.
- Vulnerable students identified by our school or who:
 - Are currently receiving services from Child Safety (including those subject to a child protection order)
 - Are subject to a youth justice order.
- Children in Indigenous communities.

Where alternate care arrangements cannot be made for students of essential workers, supervision will be provided at school. These students **will undertake the same modified curriculum that has been prepared by our teachers for those learning from home.**

If you contacted the school following the communication on Friday 3 April, advising of challenges accessing online learning, you will have been contacted to gain additional information. Discussions are now in progress as to how we can assist. A member of the admin team will be in contact by Friday 17 April.

We have identified a number of parents willing to assist families where English is a Second Language. If you or someone you know would benefit from this service [please email the support team.](#)

OSHC services will continue to operate before and after school care where there is demand for services and particularly for vulnerable or children of essential workers. This will include on-site OSHC or other services off site that cater for school age children, such as long day care or family day care. Parents are encouraged to check with their local service.

I remain **committed to providing a safe environment** within which our staff can undertake their work and students can undertake their learning. Consequently:

- Supervision of students in attendance will take place in spaces sufficient to observe the social distancing requirements as stipulated by the Government. This includes the 1.5m distancing rule and 4 square metres per person restriction. To meet requirements, supervision may be conducted by a range of staff in a variety of spaces, with a range of year levels.
- Students presenting with cold or flu symptoms will not be permitted at school.
- Strict limitations will be placed on play spaces and activities.
- Entry to and exit from the school for students will be regulated to limit unnecessary contact.
- Some of our vulnerable staff members will not be on site due to the risk that contracting the virus presents.
- The increased cleaning arrangements introduced last term will continue.
- All staff meetings will be conducted observing social distancing restrictions and by video conferencing to larger groups.
- Contact with the school by parents should be by phone or email.
- We are exploring options that will maximise opportunities for staff to work from home as part of a contingency plan to minimise the impact in the event of a COVID-19 case.

The information pertaining to access to the Virtual Classrooms to which I referred in my final letter in Term 1, will be delivered to you ahead of Friday. This will help you prepare for next week in relation to:

- Using various devices
- Logging into The Learning Place – eLearn (Blackboard – Virtual Classroom)
- Navigating the Blackboard Virtual Classroom

To be effective, **it is essential that we know how many students will be at school**. An SMS will be sent by the close of business on Thursday 16 April to gather this information.

I am confident that our team will meet this challenge, as they have with many others and will deliver a remote learning environment that will be the best it can be within the constraints imposed by the physical restrictions. I expect that with very few students in attendance, our teachers will be able to concentrate on overseeing the online learning and refining the offerings as the weeks unfold.

As always, I acknowledge and express gratitude for your continued support. Your magnified role in supporting your child's learning is sincerely appreciated.

Please continue to look after yourself and those around you.

Stay safe and keep smiling.



Mr Bruce Langes
Principal