



Avenel Primary School

"Creating learners, Growing Good People, Giving Something Back"

4th August 2020

Dear parents,

RETURN TO REMOTE AND FLEXIBLE LEARNING

I have been overwhelmed with the positive messages of support and understanding towards our school and our staff as we transition back into remote learning, likely for the remainder of term 3. We fully understand that this is challenging for many families and the school will continue to support all families at this time.

I will outline below the approach that Avenel Primary School will take to Remote and Flexible Learning in term 3, with it being similar to term 2. However, there are some changes as a result of the feedback received from staff, students and parents which we hope will make the process even smoother. As was the case in term 2, teachers will provide work for each day, but individual circumstances will determine the work completed each day. We are understanding of this and are aware of the challenges of remote learning.

ONLINE LEARNING

The majority of our families will continue to access online learning through Microsoft Teams and WebEx. We know that students are familiar with these platforms which should ensure they transition back to Remote Learning with a feeling of confidence. Teachers will provide work online which students will be able to access each day.

The lessons provided will be in the same format for all classes. Every Monday through to Thursday there will be a Reading lesson, a Writing lesson (including spelling), a Maths lesson and a PE lesson. We expect that if students start in the morning, they will be finished the daily lessons by around lunchtime. In the afternoon there will be an optional "personal project" that the students can complete. Information about this will come home from your child's teacher. On Friday, the structure will be the same, except there will be an Art lesson instead of Maths.

WEBEX MEETINGS

In terms of WebEx meetings, information was sent home with all students on how to access their teacher's "room" which is how the meetings will occur. If your child hasn't got the information, please contact your child's teacher for a copy.

DAILY CHECK IN: All teachers will open their room at 9:00 each day so that they can check-in with every student and pass on any messages. We know that families are working at different times in this flexible environment, but we ask that all students are online for the daily check-in at 9am every day.



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SMALL GROUPS AND CONFERENCES: Teachers will have either small group sessions or conferences with students on a regular basis. This will not be every day for every student, but students will get a chance to work with their teacher on their reading, writing and maths goals. Parents do not need to be "in the meeting" with their child, but it is great if they can be nearby and hear what their child is learning. Teachers will notify individual students of the times of their conferences.

VIRTUAL PLAYTIME: The final part of WebEx will be a virtual playground for each class. To help with the social isolation, each class teacher will open up their room from 11:30-12:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for students who want to be online to chat to each other and catch up with their friends. The teacher will be monitoring the room, but won't be leading the conversation. It is for students to chat to their friends, if they want to.

HARD PACKS

Online learning is the school's preferred option, but we know for various reasons, some families would prefer a hard pack of work. It is our aim to keep the work packs as close to the work being completed online. The packs will follow the same format as listed above, with activities for each of those areas. It will not be a stack of worksheets, but rather focussed activities which the students will learn from when completing the activities.

DEVICES

The school has devices available on loan, with the majority being iPads. If you require a device for your child, you will need to come into school so you can sign the required paperwork. You can do this at any time during school hours.

STAFF CONTACT

The teachers have provided their contact phone numbers and email addresses to all families so support can be provided if required. Emails to staff can be sent at any time which teachers will reply to. If you need to phone a teacher, the best time is in the morning, as in the afternoons teachers will be recording videos and preparing lessons for the next day.

STUDENTS ATTENDING ON SITE

The directive from the Department of Education, under the advice from the Chief Health Officer is that all children who can learn from home, must learn from home. There are some situations where parents cannot have their children at home and these students may attend school and will be supervised on site. The main reason for a child to attend school is if a parent has to work, where that work cannot be completed at home and no other alternative arrangements can be made for supervising your child. If you have to work and are requesting to send your child to school, we will require some evidence to show when you are working. It is not easy for the students who come to school with limited numbers on site and the work they do is the same as at home. If alternative care

40 Anderson Street, Avenel, Vic. 3664
Ph: 03 57 962264
e-mail: avenel.ps@education.vic.gov.au



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arrangements for your child can be made, that would be good, but on site supervision can be used as a last resort. To apply to send your child to school, the appropriate paperwork will need to be filled in and evidence of working will be required, for example, a shift roster or a letter from your employer. If your shift starts or finishes in the middle of the day, for example, then your child would only be permitted to attend for that part of the day.

I apologise for the lateness of this message, as we were waiting on Department advice. I encourage you to call the school if you are requesting to send your child to school this week, so we can have a discussion about this.

Thanks again for your ongoing support and work in these challenging times and please let me know if you need any assistance or have any questions

Yours sincerely

Ross Davis