



COVID-19 Virus Update – Friday 3 April 2020

Dear Families,

It looks as though we may be in this pattern of schooling for some time to come, especially if the social isolation restrictions are to be continued. For the short term (i.e. next week) we continue to operate in the mixed mode of online and hard copy booklets that we have adopted this week. Our teachers and support staff will continue to work behind the scenes preparing work and videoing sessions; conducting check-ins with students; and responding to queries through SeeSaw. I expect that there will be a clear message produced by the Department of Education regarding next term in coming days.

I will be asking staff to consider if there is an appropriate social media platform which we can encourage students to use which is safe and allows for easy monitoring by parents to enable them to maintain contact with each other. It is timely to remember that while the majority of people in our society use social media platforms safely there are the smallest percentage who access social media for the wrong reasons. Please stress to your children the need to act safely and responsibly on all social media platforms and only engage with people that they truly know and trust. Child Protection online is an issue.

A reminder to start designing and making your Easter Hats ready for our 'Virtual Easter Hat Parade'. We are asking that you send your teacher a photo of the finished creation being worn so that we can make an Easter Parade movie (dressing up and costumes optional). Photos need to be sent in by 3pm Tuesday to provide time for the creation of the movie which hopefully we can post on Thursday. Please remember that **this production may be shared publicly so be certain that you are happy for your child's photo to be included.**

It is reassuring to hear that the ABC is dedicating set time for their "School on TV" segment beginning in Term 2. This will be a useful resource to assist with the continuation of this current delivery method of learning.

Over the April holidays which commence on Friday 10 April 2020, I will be challenging staff to consider how do we step up and deliver the next phase or level of teaching and learning in this virtual classroom which we are working from. There may be times where lessons will be streamed live and students are expected to join in group lessons and engage through chat messaging. It could be that lessons are delivered both through online video presentations with phone-in small group seminar sessions.

The challenge for schools is to develop a system that will cater for everyone regardless of their age, whilst being considerate of their access to technology and ability to engage through this type of delivery. We also need to consider the impact upon families with multiple students, as well as the factors which effect families with limited access to the internet.





Gillieston Public School

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For families who have limited access to technology, we have developed a loaning agreement to access one of the school's Chromebooks. At school we have limited numbers of devices which we are able to loan on a **one per family basis**. As you can appreciate, this resource really should only be accessed by families that have no other alternative. If you would like to avail yourself of one of these devices please phone the Office to reserve a device. A formal loan agreement will need to be signed as this will help us track who has which device. Please allow 48 hours for processing.

91.67% absent from Gillo PS today! Thank you for your ongoing support.

On a personal level, I am pleased to say that I have been asked to stay on as Relieving Principal up to 30 June 2020. I look forward to helping our school continue to strive forward through these testing days.

Mr David Crowe