



COVID-19 Virus Update – Tuesday 24 March 2020

Dear families,

Gillieston Public School, like all NSW public schools remains open, however, parents and carers are encouraged to keep their children home if possible. Approximately 65% of our students remained away from our school today for a range of reasons, primarily through self-isolation processes.

We have set up educational provisions to help students learn at home. All students, whether they are on or off campus, will continue to learn and will be provided with the same tasks to complete.

As of tomorrow, the delivery of lessons at Gillieston Public School will be significantly different to traditional lessons. Our teachers will be providing students, both physically at school, as well as those on-line, with the similar materials and recommended resources to complete activities. This may include watching a specific video link provided by the teacher; a television program such as Behind the News; or completing units on established digital programs such as Prodigy or Reading Eggs – programs which your child is used to using at school.

We will continue to provide supervision of learning for the children of people who don't have alternative options and young people with additional vulnerabilities.

In addition to set literacy and numeracy sessions, students attending school will be engaging in various programs throughout the week which may include, as examples, gardening, music appreciation and arts and craft activities. These are activities which can be replicated at home and build on the interests of parents and carers. You may have a talent or interest which you could share with your child to develop a strong, joint appreciation.

Our teachers will be working in pairs to deliver the same materials to both our students at school and those accessing their learning remotely. In essence, one teacher will be presenting materials to students in attendance whilst the other will respond to SeeSaw enquiries and be engaged in planning lessons and activities for the next day. We strongly encourage the use of the See Saw app as a means for communication between school and home. If you are having any issues please contact the school.

If you have difficulty accessing reliable internet at home or have issues with available technology please contact the school so that we may discuss alternate arrangements to assist.

The safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and all of our families remains core reasons for the measures which have been outlined. We greatly appreciate your understanding and patience during a period of time which is new to all of us.

These plans have been made as part of the Government's ongoing approach to social distancing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr David Crowe
Principal (Rel.)