

Dear Parents and Carers,

WHAT WILL REMOTE LEARNING LOOK LIKE AT RCPS??

This is a long message, so settle in with a cuppa (or other liquid beverage of your choice!) and make sure you've been to the loo before you begin reading!!

Please check in with your friends in the parent community that they have read this information, so we aren't bombarded with questions that have been communicated already. For example – access to a device during this time. This was addressed at the end of last term and many families took up our offer. We don't mind answering questions, but we aim to be very transparent with our plans and timely with our communication and therefore, repeating ourselves to individuals holds up our processes.

I want to be very clear about something – IF YOUR CHILD CAN LEARN AT HOME, THEY MUST LEARN AT HOME.

If you, or an appropriate caregiver, is at home **YOU CANNOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL OR LEAVE THEM AT SCHOOL TO FINISH THE SCHOOL DAY.**

HOME AND ON-SITE LEARNING PROGRAMS

a. The **learning program delivered on-site will be the same as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning.**

b. The following are the daily minimum guidelines schools are expected to meet:

i. For students in **Prep to Grade 2**, schools will provide learning programs that include the following:

- literacy activities that take a total of about 45-60 minutes (reading, writing and speaking and listening are combined into this timeframe – it is not 45-60mins of each)
- numeracy activities of about 30-45 minutes (this includes all areas of maths)
- additional learning areas, play-based learning and physical activity of about 30-45 minutes (all up – not per area and includes specialists – art, music drama, PE)

ii. For students in **Grades 3 to 6**, schools will provide learning programs allocated as follows:

- Literacy: 45-60 minutes (reading, writing and speaking and listening are combined into this timeframe – it is not 45-60mins of each)
- Numeracy: 30-45 minutes (this includes all areas of maths)
- Physical activities: 30 minutes (every day and includes PE lessons)
- Additional curriculum areas: 90 minutes (this includes specialists – art, music drama, PE)

SO, WHAT WILL THIS LOOK LIKE FOR OUR COMMUNITY?

HOME PROVISION NOT HOME SCHOOLING!

We would like to be clear in this section on the distinction between home schooling and remote learning.

Home Schooling occurs when the parents have made a conscious decision to remove their child from traditional schooling and take full responsibility for the development of a teaching and learning program for their child.

Remote Learning is the responsibility of the school to provide the curriculum and instruction for the child's learning when they cannot attend school. The learning programs are designed, presented, assessed and feedback given by the class teacher not the parents.

Please do not try to educate your child whilst you are working from home, those extra worksheets you print off will just mean a battle for you and your child! Let us do our job so you can do yours.

a. The parent or carer is responsible for students' general safety at home or elsewhere.

b. All of our remote learning is taking place on the Google Classroom platform. You, or your child/ren, should have all logged in by now and be able to see what's happening. If you have no idea what I am referring to, you'd best contact the school via email as a matter of urgency.

c. Your child's teacher will communicate their hours of work to you each day for the next day through Google Classroom. **Please note that teachers and support staff are not required and will not be available to students or families/carers outside these hours, this includes students who are remote learning at school.**

Teachers will not be available on Mondays; all learning will be self-directed from the previous week's learning. Mondays each week will be the day our staff plan together remotely and refine the upcoming weeks work. It will be a staff meeting day and leadership meeting day. So, the school week effectively runs Tue-Mon each week with Monday being our usual 'Friday' for finishing off work and handing things in.

Teachers will be **online and available for at least one hour per day** (excluding Mondays) to answer any learning questions. There will be tasks available through Google Classroom and videos made by our teachers for our students to view that explains the learning and provides worked examples. This will be subject specific each day and all future learning tasks for the week will relate to the lesson given.

All other learning for the week will be presented in a format determined by each team with tasks students can choose from. The tasks will include play-based learning activities, reading, writing, maths, individual inquiry time and 'BIG' questions to investigate and answer as developmentally appropriate.

d. Students and parents/families will be given clear information about how and when they will receive learning materials and feedback. This will come from your child's teacher and may differ slightly from year level to year level and, perhaps,

grade to grade. We are all learning at a very rapid pace and are doing our very best!

ACCESS TO TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AT HOME

For students who do not have access to digital technologies at home, we have already, and will continue to, loan families a device.

The Department is examining ways to provide network access for students who may not be able to connect at home.

We will also be able to provide hard copies of learning resources in the event of an internet outage or in cases where it is not possible for students to have any digital access. We will follow e-safety policies and procedures.

SCHOOL BUSES FOR ON-SITE STUDENTS:

The School Bus Program will continue to operate for students attending school on-site. Physical distancing guidelines will be followed on school buses, at bus interchange locations, and other shared transport services to and from school. Bus Operators will ensure that high touch surfaces are regularly disinfected (handrails and seating areas).

I am fully aware that I have not answered all of your questions. We would like the opportunity to 'have a go' during the first two weeks of term. I will then be seeking feedback on how we can better tweak what we do.

So, it is as simple as this – if you or your child is hooked into google classroom already – then from Wednesday there will be tasks for them to do and videos for them to watch. There will also be an allocated time frame of 1 hour for your child (or you) to get online and talk with the teacher about the learning and seek clarification and guidance.

Please bear with us as we start this journey, try not to let niggles turn into frustration at our new way of learning. Email us and ask – we are still here to teach your children and work with you. We will refine this as we go and get better and better each week! I'm so much better with virtual meetings – I even remember that I'm always on camera and haven't once stood up to show my pyjama pants!! 😊

Stay safe and connected,
Emma Brooksby
Principal