



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope all our students learning from home are pulling their weight around the house and being kind to their parents and siblings. Amongst these dark clouds, I hope the silver linings are shining through. These may include:

- Some closer family time,
- The development of improved independent work habits,
- The upskilling with some IT capabilities and
- The establishment of some good routines.

Children should be working through the work packages sent home and also accessing other online platforms (including the Department's [Learning from home website](#).) These tasks are designed to keep the students' skills ticking over and should not be a source of conflict or stress within the family. Try to keep it fun.

Having said that, next term when we move to a more formal home school package, it will be important that students get themselves into a sound work routine so they can keep up with their education tasks.

Attendance at School

With our school numbers now at low levels, I have had some parents who are health workers feeling concerned that they are doing the wrong thing by sending their children to school. I felt it may be worthwhile restating the Department's (and the schools) position on attendance at school. It is encouraged that parents keep their children at home if they are able to do so. Where parents are at home, it is expected that children should also be at home where possible. Where there are families who are unable to work from home, (eg. health workers, essential service personnel and others) then **the school is ready and happy to support you**. This week, students will be taught by a teacher though it will not necessarily be their usual classroom teacher. Next week, the children will be supervised while working on their home packages, while the teachers continue to plan and develop the Term 2 programs.

Forward Planning

Teachers are well under way with their planning for next term. We are investigating the best methods of lesson delivery to ensure flexibility within families and allow students to establish good routines, submit work to their teachers and receive regular feedback. The final decisions on what form the home learning will take are still being worked through but will likely be:

- a combination of paper and online approaches, including the possibility of video and voice over platforms.
- a combination of independent activities and those that may need some parent assistance.
- A balanced coverage across all learning areas.



You will understand that students will be needing access to a computer/tablet and the internet to engage in some tasks. We therefore need to know whether all families have access to these for all of their children. Attached is a link to quick survey that we ask parents complete. We are looking at ways that we can support families who are without appropriate devices and this information is vital to identify those who require additional support.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-RaA4P3Ru0yDsLdutDYWJ2vqG_Np8s5lqzs6Nbb7bB1UMksxV1k1T1pYTIk1WTdESUxTMFhRU0ZKWC4u

The staff at MBPS have (and will continue to) work tirelessly to provide the best online education platform possible. I know you are aware that as a profession, teachers have had to redefine their role and upskill themselves almost overnight for a new type of educational delivery. This has been and will continue to be a huge task and along the way we can expect that not everything will be smooth sailing. Please be patient and understanding as we work through these new challenges. We would again like to thank the community for their ongoing support.

Kind regards,

Mike Black
Principal

31 March 2020