



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we move into the final week of term one, it is difficult to comprehend how quickly things have changed for all of us. Even three or four weeks ago we could not have imagined the extent of change in our school and in the community. The vast majority of families are now supervising their child's learning from home and have probably begun to develop some routines. There is a great deal of congratulations in order for how our students, parents/carers and staff have adapted to the upheaval to ensure "Education" remains open to all Mullaloo Beach PS children.

The entire staff at Mullaloo Beach Primary have worked extremely hard in developing our online capabilities and content in preparation for Week 1 of Term 2. The learning programs teachers are creating, are being loaded onto Connect for students to access when we return from the break. Teachers are very aware that parents may have limited time to assist children and have planned accordingly. I am very proud of what our staff have managed to achieve in a very limited time. Almost all of our families now have regular engagement with the Connect platform and while there have been a few glitches along the way, these have generally been easily sorted out. Any family who has not accessed their children's class on Connect yet, we must again urge you to ensure that you can navigate the program this term, as this will be the main form of communication between your children, their teacher and the work tasks, next term. There will be no one at school to help sort out problems once the school holidays begin.

Next Wednesday, all teachers will send out a letter to their students outlining the way their learning will operate next term. When this letter arrives please read it through with your children so we all have a shared understanding of the expectation teachers have for their students. We want to encourage our students to engage strongly with their work packages, interact with their teachers and get feedback on their work. As families work to establish routines and encourage their children to do their best, we definitely DO NOT want these packages to be a source of conflict between parents and their children. Certainly from Year 3 up, students should be encouraged to email the teacher *themselves* to sort out any confusion or difficulties over tasks. We all want this to be an enjoyable experience for students *and parents* while still ensuring that children continue their learning and challenge themselves.

I also want to reiterate the advice from the Department of Education and the State Government. For the foreseeable future, it is strongly encouraged that parents keep their children at home from school if they are able to do so. Where parents are at home, it is expected that children should also be at home where possible. For those people who need their children to attend school, to enable them to maintain employment, **the school remains open and is ready and happy to support you.** Next week, the school moves into a supervision only phase. Children who attend will work through their home packages but there will be no instruction. Children can be dropped off at their normal classroom but may be moved to a central location as the day begins.





You may have also noticed that our playground equipment has now been taped off. This instruction came from the Department of Education as a further measure to stop the spread of the virus. Using the school oval after hours is still permitted.

Miss Jess Smith, our school Chaplain, will continue to provide her service to our school on Monday and Tuesday of each week. If you or your children wish to make contact with the Chaplain, please email the school and we can forward messages to her.

Finally, we have received some information advice from our School Psychologist outlining some things to consider when helping your children learn from home. You may find some of this information helpful. [Please see link attached to this message.](#)

Thank you again for your ongoing support and positive messages. This new style of learning will be challenging for all of us but also has the potential to bring a great number of benefits for students in terms of self-direction, independent study habits and organisation. Our challenge will be to work with you to ensure that we gain the most from this unique situation.

Kind regards

Michael Black  
Principal

3 April, 2020

