

Friday the 7th of May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations on your part in the space we now know as 'Remote Learning' during the COVID 19 pandemic. It is with great enthusiasm I let everyone know in our community that our families are working extremely hard on supporting their children during this time. It has been a steep learning curve for everyone including the teachers who I must also congratulate.

The information coming from the Victorian Premier and the Victorian Minister for Education is that school remain in Remote Learning at this stage. All students will be learning from home, except for children on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made as both parents are working during school hours. The health and safety of every family and community is the core of all our decisions.

ALL students should now have iPads and access to the internet. Please contact Mandy Duthie if you are having difficulties with this. See-saw has now been up and running successfully from P-6 and continues to be our main platform to ensure children are Remote Learning.

These are unprecedented times and it is vital that everyone is clear on the criteria for school attendance and the very different nature of on-site schooling for this term. Of course, it is also important that, as a community, we continue to follow the government's strong stance to stay home and self-isolate as much as possible.

This continues to be a challenging time for us all, it is critically important that we work very closely together to ensure that we provide the very best possible support for the ongoing wellbeing and learning of our students and your children.

It is easy to see the statistics that have come from overseas for those countries who did not take self-isolation seriously.

We are very mindful of ensuring the health and safety of children and our community and ask that if you do come to school you follow the strict guidelines we have in place in terms of social distancing, not touching surfaces and using the hand sanitiser.

On behalf of your child, our students, our staff and our community, thank you in advance for making the best, most considered decision in regards to your child's attendance at school this term.

I encourage you to continue your work supporting Remote Learning and contacting your teacher if you have any concerns about their learning.

I continue to work at school to ensure continuity of service and thank everybody for your support during these unusual times.

Kind regards
Karen Chaston
Principal
Geelong East Primary School

The Department of Education and Training's Learning from Home website provides information and resources for parents and carers: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning.aspx>

Further information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated as the situation evolves:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/departments/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

REMOTE LEARNING AT SCHOOL

1. School is a very different place. Strict adjustments have been made in line with COVID-19 health advice
2. Student learning on-site is exactly the same as if students were at home. They will undertake exactly the same remote learning activities as their peers learning remotely from home.

YOU SHOULD ONLY CONSIDER SENDING YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF:

- Both parents/carers are not working from home
- Your child/children cannot be safely looked after at home by yourself or anyone else.

IF YOU TICK THE ABOVE POINTS, BOTH PARENTS/CARERS ALSO:

- Accept that sending your child to school is done so at your own risk and the school is not responsible for any future health issues, specifically COVID-19.
- Understand and are comfortable with the **"School COVID-19 Adjustments"** below.

CHILD/CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE AT SCHOOL IF:

- One or both parents/carers are at home
- One or both parents/carers are working from home
- Children can be safely looked after at home by parents/carers or someone else
- You "need a break" or "need to run some errands"
- Your child is exhibiting any sign of illness, including minor 'sniffles' etc
- Any member of the family has been unwell in the last 14 days
- You are not comfortable with the **"School COVID-19 Adjustments"** below.

SCHOOL COVID-19 ADJUSTMENTS:

- A "skeleton staff" will be on-site and students will not necessarily have their normal teacher.
- Students should not be at school any earlier than 8.50am unless booked into before school care
- The 1.5m social distancing rules are strictly monitored and adhered to; including staff-student interactions, seating and student-student play arrangements
- drop off and pickup will be the netball court area at the front of the school
- Students and families may not remain on school grounds before or after school
- Students will be placed in classrooms with a maximum of 10 other children
- All playgrounds will be closed and out of bounds
- Students will spend a maximum of 2 X 30 minutes outside each day
- Students will not be able to share any equipment (i.e., stationery, sports equipment etc outside)
- Children must bring their school iPad on the day they attend
- All drinking taps are switched off and children must bring drink bottles (refill taps will be available)
- A zero tolerance approach to negative behaviour will be in place
- Any student exhibiting any signs of illness or being unwell will be sent home immediately

If you meet the criteria you **MUST** notify the school in writing (form faxed, emailed, child's bag) or to geelong.east.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au by 4:00pm each Thursday **PRIOR** to the week your child needs to attend with the following information:

1. The names and grades of your child/children.
2. The occupation of both parents/carers
3. The days/times you work and the time your child/children will be attending
4. Any other relevant information.

We can not accept "walk ins" to the school as our teachers are volunteering their time and must be rostered to attend to supervise the children. Please understand those teachers who volunteer are doing a double load supervising and Remote Learning with their grade so may not get to posts the days they are supervising.