

Dear parents and caregivers,

Thank you for the ongoing support that you are offering all of the staff here at Aldgate Primary. It makes such a difference to know that we have a strong cohesive community that works well together in uncertain times. I know that you are in communication with staff and each other to make life easier. I acknowledge that many of you have lost your jobs or have had to lay off staff and I offer my sincere sympathy that those events are happening in your lives.

I also acknowledge that you are making decisions for your children according to your family's needs. Some students are attending school and currently, about 30% of our students are remaining at home. Prior to today some teachers have been sending limited amounts of work home for students who are remaining there. The Department for Education is developing a website called "Our Learning SA". It is designed to provide user-friendly learning tasks for parents and carers to use at home, as well as resources for teachers. It has been launched today and I'm sure more will be added to it over time. Teachers will not be able to provide work for families who are electing to keep their children home at this time.

Of course, we understand that if you are working from home, have limited access to the internet, are caring for unwell family members or have other matters you need to prioritise, you may want something else for your children. In that instance I would recommend:

- Creating some structure to your child's day – a kind of timetable. You know as we do that routines and known expectations really help children to be settled and prepared for their day. A timetable could include start and finish times and breaks for recess and lunch. Usually in schools we do a mix of reading, writing, spelling, listening and handwriting in the mornings, then maths after recess, and other subjects after lunch. You might want to follow that kind of routine, or you might want to develop your own.
- Engaging children in activities where learning takes place naturally – cooking, helping in the garden, sorting their toys and books, designing and /or building a toy for themselves. Remember board and card games too – they often have excellent learning opportunities built into them.
- Daily reading
- Using some great resources: <https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/home>
- Listening to podcasts. Here is one list for children between 2 and 6 years old: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/17/parenting/podcasts-for-kids.html>
- Children creating a journal of this time. They could write their ideas, draw their emotions, record their concerns and observations. Although they may not realise it now, this pandemic will be seen as an important historical moment. It will help them to make sense of what is happening, and give them something to look back on if they have a journal to keep.

We have made a decision to increase the borrowing limits in the resource centre. Children will now be able to have up to 10 items booked out in their name. This will depend on availability and we can't guarantee all popular titles will be available at all times. For students who are not currently attending school, please contact Denny Steer on 8339 2377 and she will let you know what the process is for you to collect books.

Sports Day has been postponed until Friday 13 November (term 4, week 5). The lunch orders that you have made will be carried over until the rescheduled Sports Day. If, in the unlikely case that we are unable to proceed in term 4, we will refund monies to you. Sadly, all SAPSASA events have been suspended for the time being. This includes State and District athletics, swimming and cross country events, as well as our school-level competitions.

OSHC is continuing as usual, and planning for holiday care is organised. Samantha McLean, the OSHC director, has cancelled excursions and incursions during the upcoming holidays. She will inform you if there are further changes.

Thank you for following our request not to enter buildings unless you have essential business that cannot be conducted digitally. As I indicated on the signs on doors, this is to minimise the amount of people that our students are exposed to. On advice from the Department, in our own judgement, we have limited adults on site to parents and carers and school staff.

There has been a lot of information in the media and on social media. Some of it is accurate, some of it is not. In all instances we are following advice from the Department for Education and the Health Department. We have sufficient soap and toilet paper, we have hand sanitiser, and the department has provided us with additional cleaning time. We are asking students to clean their desks down at the end of every day. This is to help them make a meaningful contribution to keeping everyone as safe as possible. We are being stringent about hand washing and some of your children may have come home talking about how they have conducted experiments, largely using glitter, to examine the spread of unwanted matter such as viruses.

If you would like some further advice about your child's educational needs, please do not hesitate to contact either myself ([leah.kennewell769@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:leah.kennewell769@schools.sa.edu.au)) or Robyn Neale ([Robyn.Neale416@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Robyn.Neale416@schools.sa.edu.au)).

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any other questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Leah Kennewell  
Principal, Aldgate Primary School  
24/03/2020



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education