

Dear parents and caregivers,

I want to keep you up to date as much as possible so here is the latest letter in my series. (I will send another one next week.)

Firstly I would say thank you again for all of the wonderful support and feedback that we have been receiving. We've had some wonderful treats from parents and there have been many kind words about the stupendous efforts that all of the staff are putting in. I am very proud of how prepared for next term we are as a school. The work ethic of staff here is prodigious. We still have a few issues to finalise, particularly around technology, and we'll make sure that you've got all of the information that you need by the end of next week.

Thank you also to those parents who have let us know whether their children will be at school or at home next term. I am working through those emails and you will receive a response from me if you haven't already. I understand that it is difficult to make a decision when everything is changing so quickly, and I do appreciate that your decision may change between now and then. Knowing who will be where simply helps us to plan for the logistics of how we will supervise students at school as well as support students at home.

I'm also grateful to the vast majority of parents who are not coming into buildings. You are contributing to keeping all of the children and our school community safe.

What would you normally do with your children on pupil free days? Whatever that is, that's what we hope you will be doing next week when we have four pupil free days. We are not expecting you to have a program of learning for your children. As far as I'm concerned, continuing with some daily reading is great, maybe some family games, getting out in the sunshine and helping your children to feel safe and calm is what is important right now. This is what I wrote to a parent last week:

Some reading, going outside to play and observe – then doing his best to write a sentence about it, or draw a picture of what he noticed. Counting all of the different birds that he can see, watching the weather change over the day, listening to some music, dancing or kicking a ball or going for a walk and looking at all the different houses (Why are they all different? Why are the rooves like that?) Cooking – always cooking. Sorting his toys and making his bed and helping with the washing. Pulling apart different flowers and examining how they are made. Painting and taking photos and playing all those wonderful board games.

Many of you have been wondering about how next term might look. One detail that I will emphasise right now is that we will not be expecting you to run a school day at home that runs from 9:00 to 3:15. That will work very well for some families, and it might create disasters for others (especially those working from home or with toddlers). We will send home some sample daily schedules for you to modify if you wish. It might be that you do the reading component of the day as a bedtime book, or you might do some maths

games together before dinner. You might do the PE activity as a family on the weekend. It will be whatever works for you and yours. We are striving to create a curriculum that is the same for students at home and students at school. There will be tasks for English, maths, history, PE, science, French and the arts, as well as other optional activities you might want to try. We will be delivering through Seesaw, and we will post packs of work home for families that have a limited number of devices or unreliable connectivity. (Please let us know if we need to do that for you.) We will not be expecting students to wear school uniform.

At this stage we are not planning to lend or distribute resources from school. If that presents you with difficulties, please let me know by phone or email.

Some short points. We:

- are having additional cleaning of the school, both during the day and after school
- will reopen the playground next week for students attending school
- have closed the drinking fountains and ask that students fill their water bottles from the taps inside buildings
- have cancelled Maria's Kitchen lunch orders until further notice
- have deferred school photos to a date to be confirmed
- have rescheduled the dates for the Canberra camp to 2 November to 5 November (to be confirmed)
- have rescheduled the dates for the Aquatics camp to 2 November to 4 November (to be confirmed)
- have rescheduled the date for Sports Day to 13 November (to be confirmed)
- have rescheduled Dental for Schools to 2 to 3 November
- will still run the Oliphant Science Awards for all student so please see information from Nic Strevens attached to this email
- will continue with the Premier's Reading Challenge for all students – please see additional information from Denny Steer with this email
- will continue the Premier's Be Active Challenge for all students so more information about that will come from Cam Grigg

As I said above I will send more information home next week with more details about what the learning will look like for students next term.

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) or Robyn Neale (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
03/04/2020



Government of South Australia
Department for Education