



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are travelling well this week and the home learning activities are keeping your children busy and engaged. Please remember that if your child can't get through all of the content for the day, that is okay – just make sure they are doing what they can in the time they have. We realise that some children will need much more support from someone at home to complete the home learning and this is difficult for parents and carers, especially if they are trying to work at the same time. Please just remember that we only ask that you do the best you can and give the time you have available in our current circumstances.

This week, we have experienced an increase in the number of students attending school and have attendance levels (percentage) significantly above other schools in the area. Many students attending school have said that they are at school because mum/dad/carer has had enough of them at home and it's too hard for them to work at home with children doing home learning as well. We have also had several parents calling the school to say that they'll be sending their children to school because they can't handle the home learning any more or that they need to socialise.

I need to remind our families that we have been required to operate with minimal supervision on site during the current lock-down period. The school remains operational for students who cannot learn from home because their parent(s) are essential workers who cannot work from home. We do understand that there are also a small number of other exceptional circumstances that mean children cannot learn from home. These should be discussed with a teacher or senior executive member wherever possible before the children attend school on site. This is important for our planning and safe supervision on site.

All other children should be learning from home. Many of our teachers and staff members also have their own children learning from home so we appreciate how difficult it can be for parents who are trying to work at home at the same time. Sadly, the majority of our community are in the same situation.

In short, if you are not working, or you are working from home, please keep your children at home for home learning. The school will do everything we can to help you. Many families have already taken advantage of our loan devices to help with access to technology. Don't forget we have a team to help families with any tech issues or challenges. Teachers are calling families regularly to touch base and check-in. When they call, please let them know if there's something they can do to help you. Teachers are now doing class Zooms each week and, based on the results of our survey, further opportunities for how we implement our home learning program, will become available in the coming week.

We really need to support each other for the next few weeks of the current lock-down. Please hang in there and by working together, we'll all get through this.

Kind regards
Tim Fisher
Principal