



# Remote Learning Communications

17/04/2020

## Thank you for your support

Volume 1, Issue 1

Hi Everyone,  
We understand that this transition has not been easy and that there are still many unknowns. It's certainly not a situation that we could have expected. Our area of expertise is education, not necessarily technology, so please be patient with us and your children. We are working our hardest to design lessons which cater to all of our students needs in a new forum. Your children are doing an amazing job and certainly learning some new skills along the way. I would like to reassure our parents that we are not expecting you to be teachers. Our teachers are planning the lessons and doing their best to make them accessible to the children. It can be easy to become frustrat-

ed and less resilient in times of stress, so I thought it would be worth sharing some of the lovely messages of support the school has had from our parent community.  
'Just wanted to say thank you. I'm sure this is not an easy time for teachers and I just wanted to let you know that we appreciate all the effort that you have put in. I think yesterday went really well!'  
'Shout out to Bunyip Primary School.'  
'All the resources, videos, personal check ins have been top notch.'  
'Well done BPS. Your work is appreciated.'  
'Thanks for all the planning & set up you have been doing to get the kids working from home.'

'Sooooooooo much respect for you guys Wish me luck for tomorrow xxxx'  
'I just wanted to take a minute to Thank You and all of the staff at BPS for the absolutely amazing effort you've all put into making this horrid time just that little bit easier to digest.  
If you could please pass on my gratitude for everyone's efforts that would be great. '  
'We've had the perfect amount of info written so easily to read.'  
'I've been so impressed!'  
We appreciate your appreciation. We know there are glitches and areas to work on, but thank you for your understanding.  
Jenny Dowsett

### Special points of interest:

- ✓ Next week we will be sharing what our students have to say.
- ✓ Our staff are busy recording a story time for the students. A little surprise to remind you that we are still here and missing you all.
- ✓ Miss V is now a youtube star with all the instructional videos she is making to support students and staff.
- ✓ Ms Lewis is probably exhausted as she has supported our whole school community in using Edmodo. On Wednesday, she reset a lot of passwords!
- ✓ We won't be having our regular newsletter but I will send out a news sheet every now and again to keep our community connected.
- ✓ If something isn't working let us know so we can adapt our approach, especially if the problem is a common one.

## Ahh!!! My child is stuck!

Take a deep breath. Children get stuck all the time at school. At school we have taught children what to do when you get stuck. It's ok to feel challenged. So encourage your child to:  
\*Take a deep breath  
\*Re-read the instructions

\*Think about a task you have done at school that might be similar  
\*Message your teacher for extra help  
\*Post a message on the page asking for friends to help  
\*Choose another task

and explain to your teacher that you were stuck.  
Also keep in mind that children work differently for their parents than teachers. If you're really stuck, phone the school and we will do our best to help.

## Prep/1 Learning:

Mr Kent and Miss Withers have been extremely busy making videos, power points and visual examples of tasks to support our young learners. Keep in mind the challenge for young children who don't yet read independently and rarely sit for an hour block on a learning task.

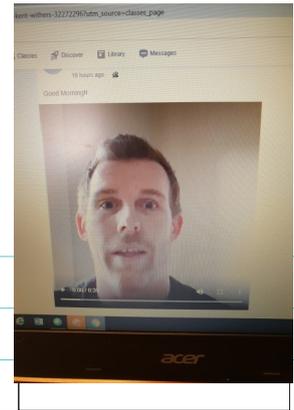
The Prep/1 team schedule their tasks to be worked on at 9am, 10am and 11am. This way the children can get feedback in that time. Specialist activities are scheduled for the afternoon and they have suggestions for additional activities for those who want to do more. Please don't stress if you are unable to get on at exactly 9am. They leave the

learning tasks up until 9pm so if you miss something you can do it later.

Mr Kent and Miss Withers have been super impressed with the resilience of the Prep/1 students.



Cooper sharing his story with his teachers.



**Mr Kent saying good morning to his students.**

## 2/3/4 Team

This is a busy team with lots of teachers. The 2/3/4 teachers have around 3 hours of planned work for the morning. Reading, Writing/Spelling and Maths. All learning tasks for the day are uploaded by 9.30am. They come out in intervals between 9am and 9.30am. Students can then choose what order they complete their work in. All students in Grade 2/3/4 are expected to be able to log themselves on and complete the set learning. They

should also message their teacher if they need help, after having a go at the task first. We have seen some great work uploaded from the 2/3/4 students.

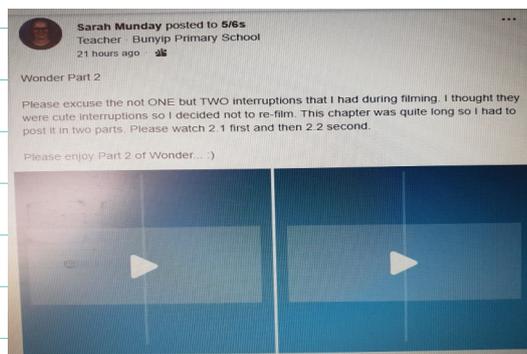
**2/3/4 students have the hang of uploading their work. Great effort everyone.**



Students need to let the teachers know that they have logged on, ready to learn. All teachers post an attendance post each day.

## 5/6 Team

The 5/6 day will look very similar to the middle school. All learning tasks are up by 9.30am and the students can choose the order they complete tasks in. Grade 5/6 students are expected to work independently and message one of the teachers or a classmate when they need help. Each teacher in the 5/6 team is overseeing a curriculum area, therefore the students will engage with all 3 teachers.



Ms Munday has uploaded videos of her reading the class serial story the 5/6 students had been enjoying.

## Don't be afraid to discuss coronavirus

### (COVID-19) with your children

- Most children will have already heard about coronavirus and parents and carers should take the opportunity to talk to them about the current situation.
- Honest and regular communication is key.

Not talking about something can make children worry more.

- Children often rely on their friends and social media for the news. Parents and carers can help by positioning themselves as a trusted source for information and as a person who can help children with their questions.

### Be guided by your child

- Ask your child to tell you anything they may have heard about coronavirus (COVID-19), and how they feel about this situation.
- Check in with your child regularly. Give them opportunities to ask you questions over the coming weeks and months.
- Some children will worry more about others than themselves. Find ways for them to connect with family and friends as much as possible using technology.
- Be reassuring. Tell children that the changes in their life have been introduced to make us all safer. Tell them, that eventually, things will go back to normal.
- Be aware of the language you use with your child while you are around them. Remember that children will be listening to adult conversations more than usual.
- Don't dismiss your child's fears. It is understandable for them to be concerned because they have probably never experienced anything like this before.
- Tell your child that doctors and scientists all around the world are working really hard to learn more about coronavirus (COVID-19) and to keep us safe.

### Close conversations with care

- It's important not to leave children feeling worried after a conversation.
- When you wrap up your conversations, look for signs they are feeling anxious. This might be a change in their tone of voice, their breathing or body language.
- Comfort them if they feel this way.

### Things to look out for in your children

It is normal for children and young people to show signs of distress. Common reactions include:

- fear and anxiety
- anger and frustration
- confusion
- sadness
- denial.

### Remember to look after yourself

- This situation can be stressful – regardless of your age. To look after the people you love, you also need to look after yourself.
- If you notice that you are feeling anxious, take some time to calm down before having a conversation or answering your child's questions.
- If you are feeling worried, tell your child that you will find some information and talk to them soon.
- The following external resources are also available to support your mental health and wellbeing:

– [Headspace – for family and friends](#)

– [Beyondblue – COVID19](#)

– [Lifeline – Mental health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 outbreak](#)

### Additional resources

To support you when talking to your child

• [Raising Children Network – Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and children in Australia](#)

• [Emerging Minds – supporting children during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

• [KidsHealth – Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): How to Talk to Your Child](#)

• [eSafety Office – COVID-19: an online safety kit for parents and carers](#)



## Department of Education and Training

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Dear parents and carers

The Victorian Government has advised new arrangements for school education for Term 2, 2020.

All children who can learn from home must learn from home.

This course of action has been determined to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), based on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer.

Our schools have been re-oriented to support learning from home.

Principals and teachers have put in place plans to provide a learning from home program for all year levels. This includes provision by the Department of Education and Training through your school of laptops or tablets and network access, if required.

In order to protect the health and safety of your children, your family, your teachers and the whole community, it is important that you follow the Victorian Government's direction and keep your child learning at home this term.

On-site school attendance is available as a last resort where parents and carers are not able to put in place arrangements to supervise children at home. Your school will have provided you with further information about this.

Information for parents and carers to support you supervise your children at home can be found here: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your own circumstances, please talk to your school or phone the Department of Education and Training parents' and carers' hotline on 1800 338 663.

Thank you for your cooperation and your support for our teachers, schools and community.

Yours sincerely

**Jenny Atta**  
Secretary  
Department of Education and Training