

Albany Rise Primary School

ABN 13 548 109 436

PO Box 1312, Waverley Gardens. VIC.3170
Albany Drive, Mulgrave. VIC. 3170

T: 03 9547 1146

F: 03 9547 8848

E: albany.rise.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

W: www.albanyrise-ps.vic.edu.au

COVID-19 (coronavirus) Update Thursday 26th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for keeping up to date with our Compass and Dojo posts on COVID-19. Although less frequent during the school holiday break, I will endeavour to inform parents/carers and staff quickly, should arrangements change for government schools. The arrival of the school holidays on Tuesday was a welcome relief for many families, though I understand challenges remain for us all this week and in the coming months.

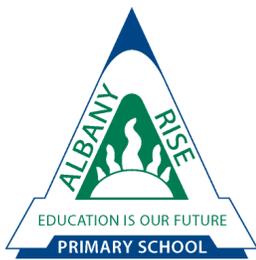
As always, an effective way to stay abreast of COVID-19 developments is to check in daily with tv/print media reports. For Victorian schools and their community members, [the Department's COVID-19 website](#) is the single authoritative source of advice and information.

Although a number of issues remain unresolved for schools in Victoria, particularly with the commencement of Term 2 on Wednesday 15th April (Tuesday 14th remains a state-wide curriculum day), whatever Term 2 has in store for schools, Albany Rise PS feels ready for any development. As I have mentioned before, we are fortunate to have a wonderfully dedicated and talented staff team behind the scenes, ready to teach your child in Term 2. This still appears to be in a 'remote' capacity, with children working offsite, via laptops and other portable devices. You can see more information here: <https://albanyrise-ps.vic.edu.au/curriculum/#remote>

The most recent 'School Bulletin' I received late last night from the Department of Education and Training (DET), had no new developments for schools regarding what Term 2 would look like. At ARPS, we now have sound plans in place as a staff team. However, I am conscious of the rapidity of change coming from the government as they set new restrictions for us all to follow. As you are aware, these are unprecedented times.

Please note that should/when schools move to Remote Learning @ Home on 15th April, this will look different in many schools as a range of platforms are being used. Our school is working with Department of Education preferred learning platforms and linking these to additional resources. Some of the principles we have worked towards in setting up our Term 2 learning programs are;

- To maintain our engagement with our families and school community
- To build upon our student's existing knowledge.
- To work within the realms of our IT capacity we have available to us.
- To tap into our students' broad knowledge of, and interests in, Information Computer Technology; ie *Google classrooms*, including various apps, making videos, etc.
- To make the facilitation of student learning from home, as straightforward to parents as possible.
- To ensure support avenues are set up for everyone, who needs advice; students, parents, staff.
- To ensure that staff have a clear definition between work and personal time.



Albany Rise Primary School

ABN 13 548 109 436

PO Box 1312, Waverley Gardens. VIC.3170
Albany Drive, Mulgrave. VIC. 3170

T: 03 9547 1146

F: 03 9547 8848

E: albany.rise.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

W: www.albanyrise-ps.vic.edu.au

Other Notes of Interest

1. This week we have cared for a very small (but very well behaved and happy) group of children and I wish to thank the staff who have catered for their needs. I also wish to thank these students, who have been willing to participate in developing a 'tour video' of the school, which we hope will be available on the website soon.
2. Our school is open (of sorts), though only with a very small number of staff here now, with Education Support staff, most teachers and most office staff all working remotely at present. Numerous staff team conferences have been held online this week, with our staff introducing family members, their dogs, cats, and 'life at home' to other members of their team. ☺

I especially wish to thank our ICT coordinators, Shelby Nyhuis, our Curriculum Coordinator, Adriana Costa, and all our teaching staff, who have been working fastidiously over the past few days, as we transition to a new way of teaching our students online.

3. **Families who do not have the internet at home, should email the school immediately** to notify us of this. Paper and pen packages can be set up early next term for your child/ren, though these will differ in some instances from work completed by children online.
4. Enrolment forms for next year can still be completed and sent to the school. Enrolment forms received from outside of our school zone, who do not have a sibling here already, will be responded to later this year. All sibling applications will be honoured as will applications received where Albany Rise PS is the closest government school.
5. Over the coming two weeks our school will still have contractors onsite, to conduct installation of our Air-conditioning in the gym, new windows and roofing from rooms 1-6, many painting projects, and various grounds works. As of late last night, DET are still allowing contractors to access school grounds to conduct work. Obviously, if further restrictions are to be enforced, this may have to change.
6. Parents who did not send their child/ren to school over the past week or more, can still collect your child's books/jumpers/belongings from the school tomorrow, between 8.30am – 3.30pm. This of course is if **you are not ill in any way or self-isolating presently**. Staff will remain distanced, but will be helpful and friendly. Bringing a carry bag would be a sensible move. No devices or personal property of value should remain at school over the coming holiday break.

Congratulations on the lucky winners of our recent school Easter raffle. I hope you all enjoy your prizes.

Please continue to follow all safety measures that are now in place and take care of your family.

Sincerely,

Judy Drew

Judy Drew
Principal