



Albany Rise Primary School

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COVID-19 (coronavirus) Update Remote Learning @ Home Friday 10th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all healthy and coping with the many changes that have been thrust upon us all. No doubt you have been following the announcements made via the media during the last few days regarding confirmation of the range of practices in place to support the transition to remote learning.

As per the Minister for Education's announcement on the 7th April: "As we act to slow the spread of coronavirus, the message to students and parents of government schools is clear: **all children who can learn at home must learn from home** – with exceptions only in extreme and limited circumstances." This is a very clear directive by the Victorian Government **based on the advice of the Chief Health Officer**.

Therefore, all schools will move to remote and flexible learning when students return for Term 2 on Wednesday 15 April.

This is not an action being taken lightly, and I understand it may cause you and your family concern and stress. Please know this step is being taken to slow the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of all Victorians.

Most of our teachers will also be working from home. All of them have been working hard to put curriculum plans in place to ensure continuity of learning and to support the wellbeing of all our students.

Work is also underway to identify students who do not have access to digital technologies at home. Devices such as laptops and tablets will be made available on loan to these students free-of-charge to ensure no student misses out.

This is clearly going to be a challenging time for all of us. It's going to be critically important that we work very closely together to ensure that we provide the very best possible support for the ongoing wellbeing and learning of our students and your children.

Due to the collaborative effort and significant preparation by staff during Term 1, I am confident that we are ready to meet the challenges and embrace the opportunities which will present during Term 2.

Preparation

Today I will provide the opportunity for parents/carers to familiarise yourselves with the **ARPS Remote Learning Handbook for Families**. This document will be sent through Dojo to all parents to assist you to make the necessary arrangements at home and also provides an overview of learning for Term 2. The document will also soon be on our school website via the Remote Learning @ Home webpage.

With all this in mind, **I implore all parents to please keep your children home** unless there are absolutely extenuating circumstances.

Eligibility Criteria for Students to Receive Supervision

On days when a student is not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. Supervision will be available for children of parents who cannot work from home, and vulnerable children. These are:

- Children in out of home care.
- Children deemed by Child Protection and / or Family Services to be at risk of harm.
- Children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from an agency).

The Department of Education, and my firm position is all staff are working from home wherever possible, and I **will not** be compelling any Albany Rise PS staff to work on site. I will not be exposing staff, students, or extended families to unnecessary risk. Where a parent believes they have no other choice, in alignment with the criteria above, an **'On Site Attendance Form'** application (See attached) must be emailed to the School email each week by 10.00am the previous Friday. This is necessary so I can consult staff each week and make arrangements for any staff to attend.

albany.rise.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au - Subject: **Attendance Application**

The form can also be filled online: <https://forms.gle/Bs4W9pCdtPQn3SKn7>

For Week 1, the 'On Site Attendance Form' application must be received by the school by 10.00am Tuesday 14th April.

Respectfully, I advise you all that such requests **must** be an absolute last resort. Please note that students who are granted permission for supervision, by me, will not be receiving direct instruction by teachers on site; they will be provided with a supervised study area (to accommodate required social distancing) and they will simply be engaging with the same remote learning through Google Classrooms as their peers.

Remote Learning

Further updates regarding remote learning resources and arrangements will be provided through Dojo and Compass next week.

Please ensure you have read the **ARPS Remote Learning Handbook for Parents** and have accessed and downloaded any apps or resources from our school website.

<https://albanyrise-ps.vic.edu.au/curriculum/#remote>

Please also note, that we intend to continue to develop our approach to remote teaching to best support our students. The use of video, for example is an area we are eager to explore. Teacher recorded videos may be used at the discretion of the teacher and shared through Google Classroom to support lessons. We request that students do not send recorded videos to teachers at this stage.

We have been utilising Webex Meetings as a planning and meeting tool, and hope parents might become familiar with this tool to assist our plans.

Finally, we are committed to making our remote learning program the best it can be. This will be achieved by us all working together and everyone adhering to our remote learning protocols. Please remember that it is the role of each teacher to teach. If you require assistance, please 'Dojo' your child's teacher, call our office, contact Katrina Karlson or myself. Parents can best support their child by encouraging appropriate routines, use of the learning devices and providing a quiet (if possible) area to work.

If we do this together, with the understanding we are ALL learning as we go, we will get through this challenging time in good health and will no doubt be more tech savvy than ever before.

Wishing everyone all the very best.

Judy Drew
Principal

Further information can be accessed here:

www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/coronavirus-advice-parents.aspx

The Department of Education and Training's Learning from Home website also provides information and resources for parents and carers:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning.aspx>

Further information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated as the situation evolves:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>