



ST. PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
230-240 SUNSHINE AVENUE
KEALBA VICTORIA 3021
Phone: 03 9366 6033

Email: officeadmin@spkealba.catholic.edu.au

KEEPING OUR CONNECTIONS – UPDATE 1



Thursday April 23 2020

Dear Community,

As we all continue to struggle to deal with the immense challenges and worry about what COVID-19 (Coronavirus) means for our St. Paul's 'family', I would like to thank you for your support and understanding, as we work together to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of your children, our staff and the families of St. Paul's.

Your work with us and support for us in transitioning to remote & flexible learning, cannot be praised enough; it is new and challenging for us as a staff group and it is new & challenging for you as families

As the role models for our children at home, and at school for some, our calmness will be their calmness, our respect for one another will be their respect for one another, our patience will be their patience and our love & care will be their love & care.

I appreciate and am grateful for the huge challenge having your children at home has presented. Staff are continually exploring new ways of making remote and flexible learning workable for families. Our goal is to make this transition to remote and flexible learning more manageable and accessible for all students, parents & guardians and staff.

I thank those parents & guardians who have sent emails of support & encouragement to myself and my staff – they make a difference when we are constantly trying to remain in touch and support the work you are doing at home. To those parents who have expressed challenges &

frustrations in their emails, I assure you we will continue to respond to you with support and recommendations, in dealing with those challenges and frustrations.

Ultimately, we are all in this together and we want to make our new ways of learning and teaching work. Sharing your successes and expressing your challenges will mean that we can celebrate what we and the kids are achieving, as well as working out solutions to what might be challenging and frustrating us.

As we look to moving into Week 3 of our new way of learning and teaching, I provide the following information and updates, to support you at home:

INFORMATION & UPDATES

- Classroom teachers need to be your first contact for questions and concerns
- Classroom teachers will be online and available via email, between the hours of 8.50 am and 3.25 pm, each learning day, Monday to Friday.
- Classroom teachers will continue to be in touch via phone; remember – if you receive a ‘No Caller ID’ call, it may be your child’s classroom teacher
- The Continuity of Learning Plan: Version 2, will be sent out to parents & guardians, by individual class teachers, week by week, as follows:
 - V2-Week 1 on Friday May 1, to start on Monday May 4;
 - V2-Week 2, on Friday May 8, to start on Monday May 11;
 - V2-Week 3, on Friday May 15, to start on Monday May 22
- CLP: V2 will provide greater detail for each day of the learning week, Monday to Friday
- CLP: V2 will have expectations for students to post work for assessment via email, in Google Drive or via Google Classroom – teachers will be clear on which applies to your children. This will increase student accountability and give teachers further opportunity to connect and provide feedback
- Google Meet, a video conferencing tool, will be introduced for all grades in Week 4. This is the safest platform available and students have easy access to it through their Gmail address.
- Gmail addresses and passwords will be provided to parents & guardians of students in Grade Prep to Grade 2, next week, in Week 3; students in Grades 3-6 already have their Gmail addresses and passwords.
- All families will be provided with simple instructions to access G Suite, where Google Meet is found

My staff and I are here for you; we are working constantly & consistently to attend to your questions, as well as looking for ways and means to make this new way of learning and teaching more workable. I acknowledge that the challenges we are facing are different for everyone; it is our job as a staff team to support and direct you in dealing with those challenges.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

If any of you have I.C.T. questions or issues please contact Mr. Andrew Curmi via email at acurmi@spkealba.catholic

CAREMONKEY SUPPORT

If any of you have CareMonkey questions or issues, please contact Mr. Patrick Pantalone via email at ppantalone@spkealba.catholic.edu.au

I cannot thank my staff enough for their commitment to the work they are doing for your children and to support you as parents & guardians. They are working tirelessly and they are determined to do their best to be there for you and your children.

I would also like to thank those of you who have emailed or posted affirming & positive comments to and about the school. The staff and I very much appreciate your support and the time you have taken to let us know that. I will continue to listen and I will continue to take action!

As we work our way through these days of challenge and not knowing, let's keep in mind the words of our patron, St. Paul, who said to the people of Rome, *"Hope does not disappoint"*; I encourage you all to remain hopeful that this time will end and that we will be back at school, stronger & better for what we have had to get through.



Denis J. Daly

Principal

