

Mundulla Primary School



GROW IN KNOWLEDGE

our school values:

excellence
respect
responsibility
integrity
co-operation
creativity

Newsletter 6

9th April 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

If anyone had told me 4 or 5 weeks ago that students would finish school a week early and teachers would completely transform learning for term 2 in a couple of weeks, I probably would have thought we were talking about a science fiction novel or movie!

In the last few weeks I think everyone has felt that we are riding a wave, waiting to see where we are dumped or if we can ride it through to the end. We are being bombarded with messages from the Government, TV and Social Media and for many this is overwhelming at times, but we've all picked ourselves up and done what has to be done. It is hard having to make decisions for our children and our own safety with so many mixed messages.

There is also the group of people who think this is a hoax or it won't happen here or to me. But it does and it has. It only takes one person to not isolate or keep their physical distance for a possible outbreak to happen.

This Easter and the school holidays are like to no other. We won't be able to have a group of mates over to play, or go camping with our friends. Or even perhaps travel to visit family or go shopping, what I usually do.

These holidays will be spent at home and give me a chance to finish that jumper I started knitting a couple of years ago and write another letter to my 90+ year old aunt that I haven't been able to see due to fires and now this!

If there's one positive from this, it is that it has given us a chance to be still – to not have the pressures of being on the go all the time, allowing our children to fill the void and discover how creative they and you can be. It's also an excellent time to keep a journal – whether that be in written, video or creatively drawn or cartooned formats, to look back on in the future. Who knows, we could have a future best seller there to put on the shelf with other biographies and diaries of tough times in history. As adults your children will remember the time they lived through a pandemic and the things they did – maybe make a time capsule to be opened on a particular date or special birthday to remember all the things you did at home.

We are particularly privileged to live here at this time. We do have homes to be able to isolate in, with some or a lot of space outside to adventure in. We do have access to water, food and medical supplies and we know that with time (even though we don't know how long) this too will pass.

It has been a very strange end to the term, like nothing any of us has encountered. We have worked hard on these 4 days, but the school feels empty and it isn't quite right to end the term just before Easter this way. We have managed to consume our fair share of buns, eggs and other treats this week to get us through though.

CALENDAR

6 – 9 April	Pupil Free Days
10 – 27 April	School Holidays
27 April	Term 1 Commences

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

If you're wondering what happens with a group of teachers who are on a sugar high and been working very hard, watch to the end of the end of term video that accompanies this newsletter! (Please note – the conditions of the Internet and Security agreements you all signed means that this is unable to be shared and we hope that in the spirit this was sent you, will respect our privacy and keep this to yourselves!)

At this stage next term we will be offering online learning with students at school or home being supervised to complete the tasks. For those people with students at school, please note that you will need to drop students at the gate and meet them there again after school. Schools with canteens are now to close them, but we will work with the local shop to try and keep supply available for the school lunches next term.

Normally we are happy to have school and community members use the school during the holidays, but our playgrounds are out of bounds now and our drinking fountains are disabled, so there really is no need to be on the school grounds.

Attached to this email and newsletter are some departmental letters and information as well as a video message for your children. Please share it with them (and only them!) One of the attachments is about the processes and the online portals that will be used next term. Webex is what will be used for daily meetings with students who can be online. If you would like to try and log in via the link that's great. I won't have the portal open all the time so if you get to the point where it tells you the host will admit you to the meeting, that's as far as you can go until next term. Just log out and wait until you get more information. Students will receive all their user names and passwords for Google Classroom and this is where students will be able to see extra teaching materials, mark themselves as attending and older students can upload work.

Teachers have prepared a pack of work for every student in the school to work on during the next term. The contents vary according to the age of the children and your input will also be determined by the abilities as well.

I hope that in the midst of all that is happening you have a wonderful holiday with your children and we look forward to working online and face to face with students next term.

Stay safe
Joann