



# Calder Chronicle

NUMBER 10

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THURSDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2020

## CALENDAR

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May

Scholastic Book Club LOOP orders due online (these will be delivered to school for parents to collect)

## School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome to Week 2, of Term 2. This term, unlike any other, is a challenge for us all. Never before have Australians faced such times, including restrictions to our daily lives. Like you, we work in isolation. On weekends, we remain at home and do the right thing. Some of us come on site because we have to, but once the end of the day comes, it's back home and staying safe. When we work onsite, we have to follow strict guidelines. It is not school as we know it – or even the school life we love. Social distancing is enforced heavily, seating is strict, playgrounds are closed, drinking fountains too... For the few coming onto the grounds, we are managing to keep children apart (including socialising apart) to keep all of us safe. For those staff who are able to come on site to supervise (they don't have to), every step is taken to keep them safe and ensure any child on site is also as safe as we can make it. It's hard work. At times I have staff doing both remote learning and trying to help supervise the few children on site. For others, they are running remote learning for people who are able to stay home, but also trying to ensure their own children are working too. Why am I saying this to you? Not to make you feel bad – but to help you see that we understand it's hard. It's hard for everyone...but we just have to do our very best to stay safe, flatten the curve and reduce the risks for our households and others. We are all in this together. Each of us are doing our bit to manage what we can – together we'll get through this.

### HOW LONG?

Last week I shared with you the opinion of Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Dr Brett Sutton: "My advice to the Victorian Government was and continues to be that to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), schools should undertake remote learning for term two. This is because having around a million children and their parents in closer contact with teachers and other support staff has the potential to increase cases of coronavirus not just in schools but across the community. By having remote learning, it can contribute to physical distancing and therefore supports efforts to drive transmission down." Our Premier, Daniel Andrews has also stated the schools in Victoria will work remotely for all of Term 2, with a possible review in the coming weeks. At this stage, I'd be planning on the long term, rather than hoping school will return on site. Whilst I understand working from home with children is hard, it is also safe – not only for your child/ren, but for our staff, some of whom have to be here. What is safe is best. Choose hard over safe and keep your children home unless you absolutely have no other choice.

### DONGLES, DEVICES ETC

Our Education Minister announced that some digital supports would be available for our families, if required, in the media. To date, our school has not been provided with such resources announced. We have asked parents before the holidays if families were ready for remote learning and had internet etc and fortunately, the great majority of our families indicated they were ok. Sadly, with the announcement of free devices/dongles etc, came the information to our school that the State will prioritise these devices – starting at Year 11 and 12 across the State, then working through to schools in disadvantaged areas etc. As we are medium level socio-economic, we are about halfway down the line for the State. Due to this, I do not have any advice as to when dongles etc might be offered to us. At this stage, we are working with families who are really stuck and have plans in place. If you are genuinely having trouble with devices, please talk to your child's teacher. Ideally, if we can offer anything, it's not to each child, but to each family who indicate a genuine need of support. What we offer are not resources provided by the State, but those belonging to our school.

### REMOTE LEARNING

We are nearly two weeks into remote learning and already we are learning so much. We are using blogs for three Units and Showbie for our Senior Unit. Sadly, Showbie could only be used for the Seniors, as it was already purchased and in use with the students in the Senior Unit. Due to this, the children were set up and knew how to use it, making it simpler for children to use now. We did try and get it extended for the whole school, however, Showbie was not taking on new accounts due to overwhelming demand. Due to this, the decision was easy for First Steps, Junior and Middle – use a blog...it works well, is secure and you can upload visuals, audio and video.

We also decided not to do live lessons, as many families can't connect to a live feed such as WebEx...or due to work hours, can't always be available at a set time. Some families are also using Saturday and Sunday as school days and running their own weekends on days where parents have to work. We needed to be flexible, so whilst you might be able to connect, many of our community can't. Due to this, we are trying to do what is best for each family and Unit. Some Units are doing phone calls home, others are doing WebEx...some even Facetime. Please understand, Units are united in trying to provide learning that is consistent in Teams. There will be difference between each Unit due to age, ability, skill level etc. Honestly, we also have staff who are learning as they go...just like you, so the skill set to work digitally is different from person to person. We challenge ourselves to become better, but it takes time and presently, staff are working so very hard to support you remotely.

The following platforms are working successfully – please check in each day to find out what your child should be doing:

<https://firststepsunitbhps.edublogs.org/>

For children in Pauline, Nicole and Jen's classes – Prep & Year 1

<https://juniorunitbhps.edublogs.org/2020/03/24/welcome-to-our-remote-learning-blog/>

For children in Rhys or Catherine's classes – Year 1 & 2

<https://34bighill.edublogs.org/sample-page/>

For children in Dean, Wendy and Renae/Sandra's classes – Year 3 & 4

<https://sites.google.com/view/learnchinesebendigo/home>

For children Prep – Year 6 to access their Chinese lesson each week

Our Senior Unit Students are working through Showbie – instructions for children and families from Lauren/Roberta, Brett, Zoe and Kate's classes have been shared. If you have access issues, please contact your child's teacher via email.

### **ABOUT LEARNING FROM HOME**

When you start to think about helping your child to learn from home, remember that no one expects you to be a teacher or subject matter expert. The most important thing you can do is continue to provide routine, support and encouragement to your child. You can support your child to learn from home by keeping up to date with your child's school communications.

At Big Hill PS, we will:

- ❖ clearly communicate the responsibilities of your child's teacher as well as what students and parents and carers need to do,
- ❖ provide learning activities for your child to undertake,
- ❖ communicate with parents and students through their normal channels, for example via the school website, newsletters and email,
- ❖ advise parents and students about the online tools your child can use to support their learning from home.

If you do not have a computer device or internet at home, your school will be in contact with you to discuss whether your child needs to borrow one and how your child can receive materials – please discuss this with your child's teacher and we will follow up.

### **SETTING UP A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Every home is different. Where possible, extended learning should take place in a space your family shares. For example, a lounge room or dining room. These spaces are preferable over a bedroom, where your child can feel isolated and supervision can be more challenging. It should be a place:

- that can be quiet at times,
- where you or another adult is present.

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES DURING REMOTE LEARNING**

Depending on the age and stage of your child, they may be expected to:

- regularly monitor digital platforms for announcements and feedback from teachers,
- do their best work when completing tasks,
- do their best to meet timelines and due dates,
- communicate openly with their teachers and raise any concerns or issues,
- continue to abide by our school's behaviour guidelines.

### **ESTABLISHING ROUTINES AND EXPECTATIONS**

It is important to develop a routine to support your child as they learn from home. This is important for them and for family members, to provide an environment that encourages learning. Start and end each day with a check in to help your child:

- ✓ clarify and fully understand the instructions they get from their teachers,
- ✓ help them organise themselves and set priorities for their learning at home.

Encourage regular exercise breaks. We will continue to provide some suggested activities.

Encourage healthy eating habits and make sure they drink enough water.

Try to keep normal bedtime routines for all children, especially for younger ones.

## **MANAGING SCREEN TIME AND ONLINE SAFETY**

As your child is likely to be spending time online, it is important that you talk to them about online safety. This will help them to make good digital choices and use information and communication technologies responsibly.

You may wish to speak to your children about ensuring they:

- use only the online tools recommended by their school or the Department of Education and Training (DET),
- are respectful when communicating online, just as they would be when speaking face-to-face,
- use digital devices in open areas of the home.

For more online safety advice for parents and carers go to: [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING CHECK IN**

Just as you set aside time for physical exercise, it is important to make time each day to check in on your child's mental health and wellbeing. It may take your child some time to adjust to their new routine for learning and key changes such as not seeing classmates in person. Every child will react differently to new circumstances – feelings of sadness, frustration, anxiousness and even anger are entirely normal. You can help your child by:

- providing an opportunity to talk about how they feel and listening to what they say,
- identifying some specific actions they can take by themselves or with you to address any concerns they might have,
- asking how they are finding learning remotely, and if there is anything they'd like your help with.

If you have any other concerns about the health and wellbeing of your child, please contact your school directly, which will have access to resources that can help.

## **ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

If your child has additional needs, they will already be on an individual education plan. This will help guide their learning from home. The parents' page of the DET website ([www.education.vic.gov.au/parents](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents)) has several resources to help parents and carers support learning from home. For parents and carers of children with learning difficulties, a comprehensive resource *Understanding learning difficulties for parents: a practical guide* can be downloaded from [www.uldforparents.com](http://www.uldforparents.com). This guide provides parents and carers with practical advice about learning difficulties as well as a list of recommended apps: <https://uldforparents.com/further-reading/appendix-5-recommended-apps-list/>.

## **LITERACY AND NUMERACY RESOURCES AND TIPS**

In addition to the resources and materials that we have provided, you could use the following resources to support your child as they learn from home:

### **Literacy and numeracy:**

Tips for parents and carers to build their child's literacy and numeracy skills can be downloaded from:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/Pages/litparents.aspx>

### **Premiers' Reading Challenge:**

The challenge encourages children and students from birth to Year 10 to read a set number of books over the year and record their efforts online. For more information and to register visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/default.aspx?&Redirect=1>

### **Mathematics and numeracy at home:**

Parents and carers play an important role in helping develop their child's numeracy skills. Advice and resources for families can be downloaded from:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/maths/Pages/maths-and-numeracy-at-home.aspx>

## **ON SITE SUPERVISION**

On site-supervision is a last resort. It should only be used when a family have exhausted all avenues to provide care of their children utilising family, friends, changing work hours, rostered days off etc. The direction by law is clear. Please respect this and use our onsite supervision only when you have to. We will review cases of onsite attendance in light of guidance as it changes. To organise your child to work on site, please have a phone call conversation with me. Parents using the service will be provided with the correct documentation to use. Care must be booked for the upcoming week by close of business, Thursdays. No late applications after 5:00pm will be accepted in line with guidelines. As staff are generally not on site, attendance numbers must be known to enable the school to hire in supervisors on Friday for the week ahead. Thanks for your cooperation.

## **UNWELL? NEW PROCEDURE**

If your child is unwell, you are unwell etc please act accordingly and get tested... Please do not come onsite until you have clearance – and your child is cleared as well. We need to keep our service running. This means we all need to be vigilant. Starting today, each child and staff member onsite are temperature tested on arrival. Where possible, we will temperature test them again over the lunch break. If a child registers a temperature spike, you will be contacted directly and must, according to the legal document signed, arrange to pick your child up as soon as possible.

## **VISITS TO THE SCHOOL**

If you have to come onsite, please follow social distancing rules to keep our staff safe. Visits should only be to the Office area. General school grounds are out-of-bounds, unless prior arrangement has been made. We need to keep our grounds safe for those limited staff and children on site. As mentioned above, playgrounds are closed, as are drink stations. These are used out-of-hours and can't be hygienically cleaned for the protection of those on site Monday to Friday.

## **SOCIAL INTERACTION**

It's important for your child not to feel isolated. Our learning platforms are purely set to ensure parents and children can work from home. They are not designed to socialise. Can we ask families to organise alternative ways to stay in touch with close friends – maybe your child can phone a friend, face time, use Skype, Messenger etc. Ideally, if your child has friendships, you will most likely know the family and can reach out. If you need help with this, we can email a parent your details if you give us permission to do so. Beyond that, we will leave contact up to you and your child to organise social chats.

## **ONLINE BEHAVIOUR**

Due to some students not using learning platforms correctly, most chat features are being disabled. If your child has a query about learning, email your teacher. Please supervise children with online work to ensure they are working and not socialising with others...and most importantly, not clogging up school platforms with endless chat. As mentioned above, children and families can use alternative means of communication beyond our platforms to allow children to have contact with each other. We really want to ensure the learning materials are there with support provided around any issues you might be having. Thanks for your help with this.

## **ANZAC DAY**

ANZAC Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders "who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations" and "the contribution and suffering of all those who have served". Observed on 25 April each year, ANZAC Day was originally devised to honour the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who served in the Gallipoli Campaign, their first engagement in the First World War. This year, ANZAC Day falls on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April. As it is observed on a Saturday in 2020, there is no public holiday. Due to this, there will be no disruption to school days – a remote week of learning Monday to Friday coming up. As all of us will be observing ANZAC Day from home, staying safe, I encourage you to use online resources etc to talk to your child on Saturday about ANZAC Day. This clip is also excellent: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iD7ZfvegAUk>. On Saturday, think about ways you might recognise the ANZAC's at home OR if you are out-and-about, drop off a bunch of flowers, something your child has made etc at the KANGAROO FLAT CENOTAPH opposite McDonalds – social distancing and being safe of course.

## **CANCELLATION / POSTPONEMENT**

It is unclear what will happen in the near future, however, at this stage the following events are either postponed or cancelled. Where possible, anything that can be rescheduled, will be. At this stage, there will be no Middle Unit Gym, School Photo Day, Education Week Celebrations and NAPLAN testing for all Year 3 and 5 students.

## **THE BASICS**

If you are struggling getting through all of the online work, remember, a child should be doing about 2 – 2 ½ hours a day. If you only get through Literacy (Reading, Writing) and Mathematics...that's fine. Try and give your child the 5 days of literacy and numeracy so that they do not fall behind. If you have difficulty making a video or app work on your device, work around it...if they can't write exactly, or read exactly what was planned...change it to something close to what was outlined. Remember – keep your child reading and writing...and doing maths each day – firstly from the guidance of your teacher and then if that is difficult (and you can't get guidance from staff) get them to do it the best way you know how until you solve it. Keep doing the best you can. As we find issues with our platforms, instructions and resources, we are modifying them. Let us know respectfully and we will take such feedback into consideration when planning future weeks.

## **POSITIVE APPROACH**

I have had so many positives reported to me by parents, children and staff. It does appear the great majority of you are finding the experience hard work, but effective and for many...rewarding. Thanks for supporting each other and providing positive feedback. Remember to encourage each other – parents, children and staff are all working hard together...and it's not easy. If you are feeling frustrated, please don't take it out on each other – particularly the staff working hard and in new ways to try and support you. I'm pleased to report the great majority have been so supportive. Thank you!

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Happy birthday to Clare P, Remy W & Indigo B.

The weekend approaches. Take some time to get outside...spend time together, go for walks, rides etc as part of your exercise outing. Stay safe, stay positive, stay connected...and thank you for all you are doing for your child/ren...and by staying in touch with our staff, who are always here to support you.

Kind regards...

*Matt Pearce, Principal*

Want to help your neighbour? Visit the City of Greater Bendigo's website:  
<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/About/Media-Releases/Greater-Bendigo-COVID-19-updates/Help-Your-Neighbour>

Want to make someone's day? Visit the City of Greater Bendigo's website:  
<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/Make%20Someone%27s%20Day.pdf>

## JUNIOR UNIT NEWS

### REMOTE LEARNING

A huge thank you to all Junior Unit families with their efforts assisting with our remote learning program. It has been great to see lots of pictures of work being uploaded to student portfolios for us to give feedback on. We are very impressed with the effort from parents and students so far!

### BOOK COLLECTION

Can families please make sure they pick up their child's maths and handwriting books from the Office as soon as possible? Thank you.

### WEBEX VIDEO MEETINGS

Can families please ensure they have downloaded the Cisco WebEx meeting app so it's ready for scheduled meeting times that will begin next week? Thank you.

### CLASS DOJO

Just a reminder to continue checking Class Dojo daily. If you make sure you have notifications turned ON in the app you will be notified of any messages as soon as they come through.

*Catherine & Rhys*

## MIDDLE UNIT NEWS

### CONTACT DETAILS

Please note that teachers can be contacted via email:

[westley.renae.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:westley.renae.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)

[white.dean.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:white.dean.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)

[hicks.wendy.e@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:hicks.wendy.e@edumail.vic.gov.au)

You can access our blog at: [34bighill.edublogs.org](http://34bighill.edublogs.org).

### BOOK COLLECTION

Just a reminder that all Middle Unit student workbooks are now at the Office ready for collection. Students may complete the allocated weekly tasks in their New Wave Mental Maths, Sound Waves and Handwriting books. Thank you to the families who have already collected their child's books. These books will be returned to school when classes resume.

### WEEKLY PLANNERS

Your child's daily lessons can be accessed through an email sent out before the start of each week or on the 34bighill blog. We request that parents work through the activities provided on the weekly planner sheet. If your child requires extension work please contact the class teacher or go to the Extension Ideas link on our blog.

### FEEDBACK FORMS

Thank you to the families who have returned their child's Week 1 Feedback Form. This allows teachers to check and monitor the students completed work. We send this form with the weekly schedule or it is available on our blog. You may type onto the form and send it back as a word document or it can be printed off, a photo taken of the handwritten form then emailed to the class teacher.

*Rena, Sandra, Wendy & Dean*

## SENIOR UNIT NEWS

### THANK YOU

Well done to all families for the hard work you are doing assisting and supporting your child/ren at home. Hopefully you are all starting to get yourselves into a routine that fits for your family. We have been really impressed with the amount of effort that students are putting into their work and would like to encourage you all to continue to keep up this good work. However if some of you are still feeling a little unsure and require help, please make sure you contact your teacher.

### SHOWBIE

Just a reminder that the Showbie platform is a space for the students, it is their space to submit their work, send messages to their teacher and access daily notes about the tasks set for them. If students have questions about their learning we would encourage them to contact the teacher to seek support. If parents need to communicate with their child/ren's teacher, please do so via email only. Thank you.

### TEACHER CONTACTS

#### **4/5 Lauren - SL**

Monday to Thursday

[adcock.lauren.l@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:adcock.lauren.l@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Friday

[mathers.roberta.n@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:mathers.roberta.n@edumail.vic.gov.au)

#### **5/6 Ainsley**

Monday to Friday

[wright.zoe.z@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:wright.zoe.z@edumail.vic.gov.au)

#### **5/6 Kate**

Monday to Friday

[dole.antoINETTE.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:dole.antoINETTE.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)

#### **5/6 Brett**

Monday to Wednesday and Friday

[strange.brett.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:strange.brett.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Thursday

[mathers.roberta.n@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:mathers.roberta.n@edumail.vic.gov.au)

*Brett, Kate, Lauren, Roberta & Zoe*

## GUITAR LESSONS WITH LEIGH TURNER

Although it is still unclear as to when normal lessons will resume, stay connected with the school and for updates advising when remote learning is altered to enable face-to-face lessons.

Naturally, the guitar students will have lost some momentum with the things they were working on, so I have been considering what I can do in the meantime to help them. Although I won't be doing any online lessons, I may produce a video or two to remind the students of what they need to be working on and some tips to keep their momentum going at home. These could be uploaded to a private YouTube channel with a link emailed to parents.

I would like to gauge interest before producing the videos, so I am asking for parents to send me an email. No need to include a message. Just put your child's name in the subject line. If I have enough responses I will produce the videos and reply with a YouTube link.

Kind regards, *Leigh Turner* – [leighturner23@gmail.com](mailto:leighturner23@gmail.com)