



Calder Chronicle

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THURSDAY, 6TH AUGUST 2020

CALENDAR

Thursday, 6th August

Remote Learning commences

Monday, 31st August

Curriculum Day

Friday, 18th September

Last Day for Term 3

School Organisation

Dear Parents / Guardians,

This week has been nothing short of hectic for everyone. With Sunday's announcement of the re-introduction of Stage 3 Restrictions in Regional Victoria and the return to Remote and Flexible Learning... everyone was sent into a spin. Fortunately, the majority of us took to the change a little easier this time, due to having done it all before. Still... crazy times!

THANKS

Thank you to our families for being so flexible this week, as we had one day on site, a pupil free day, a late announcement of a second Curriculum Day and two days of remote learning and supervision. It was disruptive and turbulent, so thanks one and all for helping us navigate this week in particular. A special thank you also to our School Council for quickly approving yesterday as a Curriculum Day AND to our staff who have worked tirelessly to get remote learning up and running so quickly.

REMOTE LEARNING

As Remote Learning takes off today, don't be surprised if it takes a few days, even weeks to settle into a routine and nut out issues. As adults and children become familiar with the work set and the platforms, things get into a rhythm... this is certainly what happened last time. To help families adjust we have posted a few documents on our Facebook page, website and through Flexibuzz with tips on remote learning, on site arrangements etc.

The following platforms are being used across the school – please check in each day to find out what your child should be doing:

<https://bhpst3.edublogs.org> - For children in Pauline, Nicole and Jen's classes – Prep and Year 1

<https://juniorunitbhps.edublogs.org> - For children in Rhys or Catherine's classes – Year 1 and 2

<https://34bighill.edublogs.org> - For children in Dean, Wendy and Renae/Sandra's classes – Year 3 and 4

<https://sites.google.com/view/learnchinesebendigo/home> - For children in 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, Ainsley and Kate's classes have been shared. If you have access issues, please contact your child's teacher via email.

ON SITE SUPERVISION & OSHC

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 – if your child can learn from home, they MUST learn from home. Please respect this and use our on site supervision only when you have to. We will review cases of on site attendance in light of guidance as it changes. To organise your child to work on site, please contact Matthew Pearce by phone to discuss – this must occur prior to your first use of the service. 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 4:00pm 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. OSHC is also running for those using on site supervision – but is only available to existing OSHC clients. You must pay a registration fee to use OSHC and currently, families have to pay for child care services.

NEWSLETTER UNIT ITEMS

Please note that not all units will be placing items in the newsletter every week. It may just be occasional student writing or information to share with the whole community, seeing as each Unit will communicate directly with students.

UNWELL?

If your child is unwell, you are unwell etc please act accordingly and get tested... Please do not come on site 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. Each day, adults and children on site are temperature tested in the morning and the afternoon. 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. On site supervision is made as safe as possible, but considering the number of local cases, you can understand why we want children picked up straight away. Where outbreaks occur in our local community, many exposures occur... so to keep our children on site and staff on site safe... stay home if you are sick and be available to come on site if your child falls ill whilst being supervised on site.

VISITS TO THE SCHOOL

If you have to come on site, please follow social distancing rules to keep our staff safe. Visits should only be to the Office – which may be locked. Ring ahead to avoid disappointment – or knock and the door and if a staff member is available they will let you in. If collecting work, please organise with your child's teacher suitable times to pick up. When dropping children off for on site attendance, please do so at the top carpark and encourage them to walk to the multipurpose alone. If collecting, please walk to the undercover area and signal to a supervisor... who can organise your children to head home. General school grounds are out-of-bounds for all adults who are not staff, unless prior arrangement has been made. We need to keep our grounds safe for those limited staff and children on site.

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.

WORKLOAD FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

On days when it all gets too much for you at home, have a break as a family. Sometimes, it might be best to just do the reading, writing and maths for the day... then have some exercise together. If you do the BASICS, this can be broken up as a couple of short blocks. Ideally, children should only need to be sitting focused on academic work (ie: Literacy and Numeracy) for about 2 ½ hours a day maximum. From what I see supervising children on site, our Senior Unit Students are all capable of almost running themselves with little assistance and the Middle Unit are also pretty independent. Don't let them fool you at home – they can do it! I think our Junior Unit and First Steps students do require more assistance... so as I said, pace yourself. Do the basics... and honestly, if you can't get through the specialist subjects (ART, MUSIC, CHINESE, ICT/Coding, SCIENCE) – then don't stress. Some families are also changing things up... if your child works better in the afternoon, they school then. I know of a couple of families that have Saturday and Sunday as school days, then have Monday and Tuesday as rest days to enable the adult to focus on work at home while the children are relaxing. Be creative! Your week does not have to be conventional 9:00am – 3:15pm. It's probably easier if it is routine-wise... but it doesn't always suit different households. Don't be afraid to mix it up if it means you can make it work better.

ATTENDANCE

We mark the roll each day... however, if a teacher feels a child is not engaging in their work, they may have to mark the roll as an absence. To ensure your child is marked present each day, ensure you are responding to teacher emails, answering phone calls, attending scheduled Webex meetings OR return completed work to teachers when requested. The First Steps, Junior Unit and Middle Unit are using Class Dojo now to communicate – making things easier... whereas the Senior Unit have the children working on Showbie and submitting work there. All Units are using WebEx this time around too, so if your child attends a meeting... this is a sign of attendance. Should your child be unwell, please email your child's teacher, myself (Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au) or Janet Dean (Janet.Dean@education.vic.gov.au) so the roll can be marked accordingly. When your child is unwell, there is no expectation that they would be working remotely... we just need to mark the roll to reflect this.

KINDER – PREP ENROLMENT

If you have not enrolled your child for Prep, 2021... please contact the Office / Janet Dean as soon as possible. For parents wanting to organise a tour, we are unable to provide school tours currently due to COVID-19 restrictions. When a time arrives when this can be done safely, we will advise on our website.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At this point in time, School Council documentation is being emailed out to members to read over. I am not holding an August meeting as scheduled. DET have changed the requirements of 8 meetings a year to 6, so to reduce stress and the need to meet excessively, School Council will meet once this Term in September.

BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Korbin C, Abigail H, Shelby S, Nate S, Marley T, Jacinta D, Wesley H, Mia A & Chad R.

Tomorrow is going to be freezing... so stay warm! Enjoy the weekend as best you can during Stage restrictions too... Kind regards...

Matt Pearce, Principal

FIRST STEPS NEWS

WELCOME BACK TO REMOTE LEARNING

This week we have moved back to using our First Steps Blog for the delivery of our remote learning tasks. You can find the First Steps blog at <https://bhpst3.edublogs.org/>. We are also using the Class Dojo app for work submission and communication. You should have received an email with the login details from your classroom teacher with instructions as to how to access this program. We will also be holding Webex catch ups daily. These will be used for marking attendance so please be sure to log in each morning at 9:40am using your teacher's link on the front page of our blog. We will also be sending out a timetable outlining your child's Show and Tell and reading conference day. Thank you for all your support, patience and encouragement as we move back into remote learning for Term 3. We hope that our students continue to be engaged with their work and look forward to seeing them via Webex on Monday.

BOOK COLLECTION

If your child was absent on Monday and did not collect their materials for remote learning we have placed their book packs at the Office for collection. Please call the Office to ensure someone will be there to pass it to you.

STARS OF THE WEEK

For displaying resilience and positivity with our move back to remote learning:

FSJ *Imogen K*
FSP *Ainslee S*
FSN *Mia T*

Jen, Pauline, Nicole & Sharyn

SENIOR UNIT NEWS

REMOTE LEARNING REFLECTIONS

This is Jaxson S

How you are feeling about going back into remote learning? 6/08/20 I feel ok about going back to remote learning because of COVID-19. I know we have to do it to keep everyone safe and the virus under control and not go to stage four. I think remote learning helps me concentrate better as there no one talking in the classroom. I can see my family more and also spend time with them. I can think more at home then school because there's lots of noise and talking in big groups. I can do more activities and colouring and games with mum at home.

But I do miss face to face learning especially when I get stuck and need help. When my mum has to work we have to go to on site supervision at school. It is not fun as I can't work in classes because everyone is in the same room. If you know anyone at school you can't play with them you can only play with the people in your bubble, lucky I have a brother. I hope it doesn't go on to longer than 6 weeks as I like to see my friends and play sport. Most important - I want to keep my family safe.

Shelby C

Feelings about Remote Learning. I'm feeling sooo much more positive than I did the first time around. Today (the first day of remote learning) I woke up, excited to do my work for the day. I'm coming into this, actually looking forward to it all! I know what to do differently, and how to deal with things in different ways. It's only the first day, things might change, but that's not going to stop me from being positive! Hopefully everyone is staying safe, and after quarantine things are a little bit more normal! 🌟

Jordan M

In my opinion I think learning from home is great. I reckon it is easier because there is less work, but there are some down sides, I don't get to see my friends and classes are different without the teacher there. The cats are a bit annoying sitting on me but other wise it is fun. I have to use my tablet for web x because it doesn't work on my computer. I also get to have cups of tea and mum sometimes cooks me a warm lunch too.

Oliver S

Last time we did home learning I was excited to see what it was like to learn from home. As the weeks went by my work got harder and harder. But it was a challenge for me which made me get to where I am today and, I have my teachers to thank for that.

Ainsley, Brett, Kate, Lauren & Roberta

CANTEEN NEWS

Due to Remote Learning we will have to postpone our Pizza Days. Please be assured that if you have placed an order already, it will be put in, once we return to normal learning again.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Please note that Issue 6 of the Scholastic Book Club can be viewed and ordered from online at:

<https://www.scholastic.com.au/media/5667/bc-620.pdf>

Due to remote learning, parents have the option to have their order delivered straight to the home.

COMMUNITY NEWS





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30/07/2020

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

We hope that you have all been able to stay safe and well during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Wide Open Road Optometry has been unable to visit schools during this time. **We do not** plan to attend schools for the foreseeable future due to the challenge of offering thorough eye testing in schools and due to the risks to staff, students, families and selves of moving from one school to another.

We wanted to let schools and parents know this so that if there are any children struggling with their vision or eye health they should attend a conveniently located optometrist in a town nearby or call us to discuss the best management for their child.

There will be students where we have suggested a review or extra testing in 2020 or early next year. If parents/guardians of students who we have tested have **any queries or concerns** regarding our previous advice to them or regarding their child's vision issues **please feel free to call Catherine or Jeremy.**

We are happy to suggest a new management plan for your child. We can refer to Ophthalmologists or Optometrists where appropriate or discuss the best option for your child.

We would like to extend our thanks to the staff of the school for their efforts in working in education during this time. Their work is so important and we understand that 2020 has posed a unique and stressful challenge for everyone.

We would also like to thank the school for having us to visit and wish you a very safe 2020.

Warm regards,

Jeremy Vallence
BOptom UMelb

Catherine Vallence
B Optom UNSW