



Forrest Primary School
9 Hobart Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603
Phone: 02 6142 1470
Email: forrestps@ed.act.edu.au
Website: www.forrestps.act.edu.au



30 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 2! This letter is to provide details about what the Year 6 programme will look like this term, how children will access the curriculum, submit work and connect with their teachers and classmates.

We understand that this is a very trying time for everyone and want to let you know that although we will be providing work for your child to do at home, we understand that your family's health and wellbeing comes first. In saying that, we will be encouraging students to do as much work as they can, but we do not want to add any stress to an already stressful situation. Please support your child to do as much of the work as is manageable, and contact your child's teacher via email if you would like to give feedback about the learning that is being provided.

We have now begun online learning, which the Year 6 students will engage in from the safety of your homes or a Safe and Supervised Site. **Google Classroom** will be Year 6's main platform for communication, teaching and feedback. Seesaw will also be used to share work and communicate with families.

Here is what it will look like:

- The content delivery will be dynamic and evolving as we work collaboratively to roll out an entirely new form of education. We will be seeking feedback from students and families so we can make appropriate adjustments to facilitate smooth, balanced and engaging learning.
- Google Classroom will be the chief point of lesson delivery. On Google Classroom we will post a daily schedule in the form of a HyperDoc, which will provide hyperlinks to all lessons for the day. These can be worked through flexibly in order to best suit your unique family set-up.
- Any work-related questions should be directed via Google Classroom Stream so students have the opportunity to see whether their question has already been posted and answered. Students may also have the answer to a question and be able to help their peers.
- Google Classroom Stream will be a communication tool for students to post social items to keep us connected. This might include birthday wishes, a photo of a meal they have cooked or a new skill they have learnt.
- Additionally, Google Calendar will become an essential tool for students to manage their assignments, Google Hangout meets, and other events relating to their home life as they move towards flexible learning schedules.
- Seesaw will be used for communication with families.
- Feedback will be given in a number of ways depending on the task and the learning intention. This feedback will range from formal feedback given through rubric success criteria on Google Classroom, to individual comments dropped on student work, to public comments on Seesaw posts, to general whole class feedback given through Google Hangouts meets.

- Students will be able to contact any of the Year 6 teachers during work hours through Google Classroom if it is work-related, or by email if the subject matter is of a private nature.
- All tasks have been designed using a 'low entry, high ceiling model', which means they cater for a range of abilities and skills and are thus achievable for all students.
- Once per week, your child's classroom teacher will check in with students. This will be done using Google Meets. All classes have had a trial run with Google Meets and they were found to be very successful. Information on how to access the Google Meet will be provided through the Google Classroom Stream and through Seesaw. The Google Meets will be used as a time to connect with each other, ask any clarifying questions and generally catch up.
- We encourage students to use Google Hangouts to connect socially with friends and classmates. This may be a lonely time and it is important that they have time to 'play' with friends and be silly together!
- Teachers will continue to make regular phone calls to families to answer any questions and connect with you all.

Specialist subjects will continue throughout Term 2:

Japanese

Teacher: Christine Thambipillai

chris.thambipillai@ed.act.edu.au

Students will engage with one Japanese lesson each week via Google Classroom. The aim is for you to have fun, for the students to practise what they already know and to explore Japanese culture.

Library

Teacher: Louise McMullen

louise.mcmullen@ed.act.edu.au

One library lesson will be posted onto Google Classroom each week. Students will be able to engage with a text and do a follow up response or research task to support the Unit of Inquiry.

Physical Education (PE)

Teacher: Charles Fairfield-Smith

charles.fairfield-smith@ed.act.edu.au

Students will be asked to develop and create a new sports game or activity as an assessment throughout the term. The task will be around 20-30 minutes a week and set as an assessment on Google Classroom.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Teacher: Daniel Heap

daniel.heap@ed.act.edu.au

Students will be assigned a term-long design challenge. Students will be encouraged to identify the knowledge and skills required to be successful in the project and engage in collaborative discussions, videos and scheduled Google Meet sharing sessions to upskill. Mr. Heap will record and post videos providing further information on how to be successful in the challenge. The process of designing is just as important as the final product, so students will be encouraged to post photos and videos as they progress to receive feedback and support from the teacher. Failing, restarting, changing and adapting are all part of the process. Several Google Meets sessions will be scheduled for live check-ins and sharing sessions. Students will be expected to spend at least an hour a week on their project, which can be worked in around other classroom and home commitments.

Most importantly, we understand that your lives are not normal right now. You may be in isolation and have children of different ages trying to complete learning tasks. You may be working from home, as well as trying to manage a household. Your homes are not schools, and a timetable may not work for your particular family, which is why we have not added rigid times or restrictions. Your child may complete a task in 30 minutes or two hours. We recommend that children spend about three hours each day doing the work we set; however, this is only a guideline. Students should be mindful of their wellbeing and avoid excessive screen time and working late into the evening. Take your time. Do what works for your family. Take a break. Do not stress. Everything will be OK!

And of course, if you need any support or have any questions, please contact your child's teacher through Seesaw or email. If you ever want a chat over the phone, let us know via email.

Thank you all for being so supportive and positive. We will see you soon.

The Year 6 Team

Sarah Burke	sarah.burke@ed.act.edu.au
Carolyn Davis	carolyn.davis@ed.act.edu.au
Lisa Denney	lisa.denney@ed.act.edu.au
Jemma O'Brien	jemma.o'brien@ed.act.edu.au
Cara Tink-Evans	cara.tink-evans@ed.act.edu.au