



Forrest Primary School
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29 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we acknowledge the challenging situation we are all experiencing at the moment. Our daily lives have changed significantly, and we are trying to do things we have never done before in ways we didn't even know existed a few months ago!

This term, we have moved to a remote learning model. This will look very similar to the process we were using and improving upon over the last few weeks of Term 1. We understand that parents are not teachers, and we do not expect you to become so this term. We understand that many of you are working from home and trying to balance other carer responsibilities. This is not easy! We have listened to student, parent and teacher feedback over the past month and have made adjustments accordingly. At all times, our main goal is to ensure that students are feeling confident and safe in their learning. For us this means adjusting our 'normal' curriculum and teaching practices.

These are a few key elements that we will be using this term to support children and families during this time:

- We will use **Google Classroom** to deliver our educational programme. Each child will be issued with a 'Daily Assignment'. This is a HyperDoc (Google Doc with hyperlinks in it) with clear lesson structures. Each lesson outline will have a learning intent so you and your child know exactly what the expectation is, a learning sequence with hyperlinks, teacher videos and tasks to do. Students will be able to engage with the majority of their online learning independently. This is important to us, because we know you as parents are juggling paid work, home responsibilities and caring responsibilities.
- We have **coloured coded** each lesson. This is for parent benefit. **Green** lessons mean 'Go' – we encourage all children to engage in these. **Amber** lessons mean 'Pause' and consider them in the context of your situation each day. **Red** lessons are enrichment tasks that can be completed at your discretion and will enhance student experiences.
- Year 4 teachers will provide daily **feedback** to students when they 'hand in' their assignment each day. The process of 'handing in' an assignment alerts the teachers that the learning is complete and allows us to provide feedback and 'return' the assignment to children. It's really important that students hand in work each day even if all tasks are not completed. We strongly encourage all children to read the feedback provided. In class, we would be providing verbal feedback all day long. Sadly, we cannot do that at the moment, and this is the next best thing. Please don't feel stressed about the 'due date and time'. This is simply a built-in feature of Google Classroom, and we are using it to support students in managing their time as well as to manage our ability to provide timely feedback. If learning is submitted 'late', teachers may not be able to provide feedback.
- We will use **Seesaw** and **email** to communicate with you as parents and carers. Your child may also like to post photographs of their learning on Seesaw to share with their teacher.

- In each Daily Assignment there will be a set of instructions. In those instructions we will continue to specify the times when the teachers will be online, monitoring the Classroom. This is how students can **ask questions** about their learning throughout the day.
- We know that it can sometimes be very tempting to help children with learning tasks too much. It is important that we as teachers see what your child can do and what they know. If there is a particular lesson that your child has needed your help with, and you've provided scaffolding for them, please just make a note in the HyperDoc so we know. Helping your child is okay – we would do exactly that in class – however, it is very difficult for us to plan our next lessons if we don't have all the information.
- **Google Meets** will be a key component of our Classroom this term. This is an important social connection for the entire class. Teachers will set the times for these Meets. We have already provided, via the Google Stream, an outline of our expectations during those Meets and we encourage you as a family to discuss how to best engage appropriately in that sphere.

In addition to the regular class programme, Specialist Teachers will be contributing to your child's learning.

- **Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)**

Teacher: Daniel Heap

daniel.heap@ed.act.edu.au

Students will be assigned a term-long design challenge. Instructional teaching will be provided by pre-recorded videos posted to Google Classroom. Several Google Meets sessions will be scheduled for live check-ins and sharing sessions.

- **Physical Education (PE)**

Teacher: Charles Fairfield-Smith

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

Students will develop an Understanding of Movement Portfolio, in which they will be demonstrating knowledge of how different fundamental movements are used in a variety of activities. Tasks will be around 30 minutes per week and set as an assessment on Google Classroom.

- **Library**

Teacher: Louise McMullen

louise.mcmullen@ed.act.edu.au

Once per week, students will be able to engage with a story and activity to support the Unit of Inquiry or themed day via your Google Classroom or Library Folder in Seesaw.

- **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 to have fun, to practise what they already know and to explore Japanese culture.

Our most important message to you all is to please look after yourselves and each other! Don't let a reading lesson or a maths task cause any undue stress. If it isn't working, forget the lesson. It is okay. Go and play a boardgame, take the dog for a walk or just have a cuddle. Start fresh the next day.

A message to our students:

As your class teachers we all miss you terribly and cannot wait until we can all be back together in the classroom. The school and our classroom feels very lonely without all of your little faces in it. In the weeks since we all saw each other the teachers have been busily learning new platforms, new technology and thinking until our brains hurt, about how to deliver a quality educational programme to all of you. We are

forever grateful for your patience and kindness during this time whilst we have been experimenting with different tools and technologies. We really have felt like we are a community of learners. We cannot wait to see you all again soon!

We look forward to continuing this exciting adventure with all of you this term. As always, if you need any support or have any questions, please contact us via email.

Take care and stay well.

The Year 4 Team

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