

24 March 2020

Learning From Home

Dear Parents and Carers

I trust that you are all staying well and coping with the current COVID-19 situation.

Schools Remain Open

The health advice on schools remains unchanged. Our Chief Medical Officers indicate that our schools should remain open for educational provision at this time.

The NSW Government and Department of Education are encouraging you to keep your child at home from Tuesday 24 March to contribute to supporting the community response to COVID-19. The school's doors will remain open for those students whose parents are in the essential services or who are vulnerable.

As updated expert information comes to the Department, who are in constant liaison with NSW Health we will keep you informed of any impact on school operations.

Learning From Home

Thank you for your patience as we set up 'Learning From Home' for your child for the next few weeks at least. We are planning for continuity of learning. Our teachers have been working hard to develop a suite of learning resources and options for students to undertake at home. We are setting up a *Weekly Overview* that contains work for all Key Learning Areas. This will include some online and some offline activities as we are aware that demand for devices across the whole family will be high, especially if some parents are working from home.

At Lindfield PS, we are designing work for each grade. The *Weekly Overview* and a booklet of worksheets will be uploaded weekly to the school website under the **Supporting Students** tab:

<https://lindfield-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/supporting-our-students.html>

In addition, we will email out to parents the *Weekly Overview* and booklet of worksheets to each grade each week. Packages may also be collected from the front office if this is more convenient. Please note that for students in Years 5 and 6 a *Weekly Overview* will be provided but all work will be delivered via Google Classroom which is accessible on their iPads.

The Department of Education has set up a **Learning From Home hub** with advice to parents about setting routines and the responsibilities of parents and carers if children are learning from home. It also contains some resources that may be useful. Here is the link:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home>

It is our expectation that every student working from home will complete as many tasks as possible and parents may be required to assist students in their learning to access these tasks.

It is very important to note that we are using a single unit of work for all students. This means that whether your child is at school or at home, **they will be doing the same work**. All parents are free

to access this work whether your child is at school or at home. Teachers will be supervising classes as they complete the work at school.

Copyright of Material used in 'Learning From Home'

During these unusual circumstances the materials have been provided for the student's educational use during the COVID-19 outbreak and no further copies should be made.

Classes and Staffing

Due to reduced numbers of students at school, we are combining classes and may have only one or two classes per grade. Teachers will rotate between teaching classes and lesson planning, professional learning and resource production, therefore your child may be taught by different teachers for the next few weeks. A number of staff members will be working off site. All students in Years 3-6 should be dropped off and picked up from Pool Playground and students in K-2 can be dropped off and picked up from Maple Playground.

English as an Additional Language or Dialect and Learning Support

Many of our students need additional support with their learning. Resource packs for these students are being prepared by our specialist teachers and will be available for collection at the office. You will be emailed if this affects your child.

Absences

For Child Protection reasons, we still need to know who is present at school. Please use the Skoolbag app or email the school or teacher to indicate your child's absence. You may submit one form for the rest of the term if you wish. Absences from 23 March due to parents choosing to keep their children at home is supported by the Department of Education and will be considered approved leave.

Communication with Teachers

In the coming days we will inform you about the processes for submitting some work and for communication with teachers.

NAPLAN 2020

A nationwide decision has been made to cancel NAPLAN for 2020.

Activities and Facilities – as from today:

- the Canteen will be closed
- Class Swimming lessons will no longer take place
- Lindfield Activity Centre will remain open
- 'Learn to Swim' and 'Squads' will continue for the rest of the week until Saturday and then be in recess until further notice
- The Library is closed for borrowing
- Bands and Strings – please look out for emails about alternate arrangements for rehearsals, tutorials, etc
- Chess Club will remain closed
- Athletics Carnival (cancelled 29 April)

I wish you all the best as you enjoy reading, learning and playing with your children and would love to see some photos of 'Learning at Home'.

Kind regards
Megan Lockery
Principal