

Latest News

3rd April 2020



Adelaide West
Special Education Centre

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN APRIL

Tyrhese, Declan, Noah, Dora
and Kaleb W.



2020 Term Dates

Term 2	27 th April – 3 th July
Term 3	20 th July – 25 th September
Term 4	12 th October – 11 th December

Diary dates

1 st June	Pupil Free Day
7 th September	Royal Show school closure
18 th September	Science Carousel Day
23 rd October	Sports Day
27 th November	Pupil Free Day
7 th December	End of Year Family BBQ

Dear Families,

Well, Term 1 is reaching its end and it has certainly been the strangest term at school that I have ever known. I am sure that you will join with me in thanking every one of the Adelaide West staff for their outstanding support for our students during this uncertain and distressing time. Everyone has worked hard to keep the smiles on their faces, support their colleagues and your children. Staff have worked with students calmly throughout the current health emergency and the positive atmosphere in all classes has been a joy to see. This has been particularly impressive at a time when staff are anxious about their own health, that of the students and that of their own families.

As I said in the letter I sent home earlier this week in Term 2 children will either be 'learning at home' or 'learning on site' depending on circumstances. Thank you to everyone who has let me know what you have decided to do next term. I understand that April 27th is a long way off and things are changing rapidly at the moment so any decisions made now may be changed at any time!

Families of students who will be learning at home will be contacted by teachers next week to discuss

this process. One tool that we are going to be using to keep in touch via technology is Webex. This is a video calling app used through computers, iPads or phones. Teachers will send a link that families can use to have a video call with their child's class teacher. If you wish to use this on an iPad or phone, please can you download the 'Cisco Webex Meetings' app which is available free from the App Store. If you are accessing this from a computer, you do not need the app – you can simply click on a link to join the meeting. If you do not have access to technology to use Webex, you can talk to your child's teacher when they call next week.

Families of students who are coming to school next term need to be aware that, although we are doing as much as we can to ensure that guidelines around virus prevention are followed, we are not able to enforce social distancing. In order to provide learning experiences and care to our students we need to come into close contact with them. The school is being thoroughly cleaned daily and disinfected during the middle of the day, staff wear gloves, hand wash frequently and use sanitizer but students will certainly be more at risk of virus transmission than if they stay at home. In order to try to reduce the risk of COVID 19 coming into our community we will be enforcing these guidelines:

- Any student who is unwell must stay at home. If any student shows signs of becoming unwell at school, families will be called to collect them immediately.
- Please send your child to school on day 1 of term 2 with a spare pair of shoes in a box labelled with their name. These will be kept next to the entrance where students come into school. Students will keep these shoes at school and will change into them as soon as they arrive. Their 'home' shoes will be kept in the box until they leave when they will change into them for the journey home. Staff will also be doing this. Please can you reinforce this



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concept with your children during the holiday. Children who do not usually wear shoes to school must be encouraged to do so. We will also be disinfecting wheelchair wheels and handlebars on arrival at school.

- Please spend the next three weeks working with your children on hand washing for at least 20 seconds several times a day. SA Health advises that:

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce the number of microorganisms (germs) on hands and should always be encouraged over the use of alcohol based hand sanitisers in a non-healthcare setting. When soap and water are not readily available, alcohol based hand sanitisers or rubs are acceptable but only if the hands are not visibly soiled.

- Please ensure your children wash their hands just before they leave the house to come to school and again as soon as they return home. Staff will ensure that they wash their hands when they arrive at school, whenever they go to the toilet, before and after they eat, before and after they go out into the yard for recess or lunch and before they leave the classroom at the end of the day, in addition to any times when they get dirty during lessons.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for helping to keep our school community safe by following the guidelines that we have introduced over the last two weeks.



A big 'thank you' to Variety who delivered chocolate Easter bunnies for our students and funded our Easter Egg hunt in lieu of the Easter Picnic.

School photos which were planned for 12th May have now been postponed until later in the year.



I hope that all of you enjoy a quiet but healthy three week break and that you enjoy spending time with your families.

Whilst I know that these uncertain times are causing great anxiety and stress for many of you, please try to reassure your children that we have a great health care system that is working very hard to keep us all safe and well. Many of our students are distressed at the moment about the news that they hear every day and need as much reassurance as we can give them.

I will be in touch during the week beginning 20th April to update you on any information that we have been given that relates to school life. In the meantime, stay well and look after everyone you love and care for.

Lorna



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