

GLENELG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Diagonal Road Glenelg East SA 5045

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E: DL.1017.info@schools.sa.edu.au

W: www.glenelgps.sa.edu.au



22-4-2020

Dear families,

I trust that all families have had the chance to have a break over Easter and the past two weeks, and I sincerely hope that all of your family members remain in good health and good spirits during this terrible health and economic emergency we are all faced with.

Two attachments from SA Health

Please see the two attached documents included with this update - a letter from South Australia's Chief Public Health Officer, Professor Nicola Spurrier, as well as an infographic that schools have been asked to share with families.

Support for everyone's decision

I'd like to repeat the message that Glenelg Primary School completely respects the decision of each family, whatever your decision is regarding the mode of learning for your child/ren during Term 2. I know that Glenelg families are in a wide range of circumstances, sometimes with a situation that has significantly changed for you perhaps just in the last one or two weeks. So if you have changed your mind from when you gave the school your choice late last term regarding Learning at Home or Learning at School, everyone at school understands and is ready to support your decision.

The go-kart is still ready

On Monday next week, the first day of learning for Term 2, we still intend to proceed with our new "zippy go-kart model" for all children, whether at school or at home. This means all children will be learning with many teachers from the one year level team during each week.

Children who are Learning at Home will find a see-saw message on Monday morning with more details, and the Learning at Home packs will be available at school on Tuesday as previously detailed on 9th April. A reminder that all my previous COVID-19 updates are available on our website at

<https://www.glenelgps.sa.edu.au/category/covid19/>

Children Learning at School need to go to their Term 1 class at 8:45am Monday, where a teacher will help direct them to their new (in many situations) classroom. We continue to for as many parents as possible to say farewell to children in the morning at the various school boundaries. The same applies to afternoon pick-up arrangements.

What to do if you have changed your decision, or want more thinking time

At the end of last term we had been notified by families that 407 students would be Learning at Home and 398 students Learning at School. If you have now changed your mind, please let Trea know at

Trea.HentySmith767@schools.sa.edu.au

If you have already notified someone at school during the holidays of your changed decision, you do not need to do anything else.

If you want to stick to your original decision, it doesn't mean you can't still change your mind later. For instance, I know some people have let the school know they want to continue with Learning at Home for the first two or four weeks and then decide whether to return to school later in the term or continue Learning at Home. That is fine – we will continue to support your decision.

What will happen if a lot of people change their decision?

It's probable that we will not be able to continue with our go-kart model if many people change their decision. This is not a reason for anyone to feel as if they can't change their mind, I just need to be transparent with what it will mean. Significantly increased numbers of children at school above the 'previously expected 398 students' of course require significantly more face-to-face teachers and significantly more classrooms/learning areas. We would need to revert back to our 'Start of 2020'

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class structures, including composite classes. We will definitely continue to do our best with social distancing in classrooms but we would not be able to achieve the 1.5 metres of distance between individuals in classrooms; the relatively small size of classrooms makes it impossible to achieve social distancing once larger numbers of children are at school.

Acknowledgement of Glenelg's super staff

Staff have continued working really hard during the holidays, despite me directing them at the end of Term 1 to take a complete break. When I have been at school during the holidays it has always felt full of dedicated staff. Indeed, when I was at school today I would have seen more than 20 SSOs, teachers and cleaners at school and no doubt others were also at school today that I didn't happen to see. Like other families of the Glenelg community and the whole nation, many staff members are also working their way through the current uncertainty and difficult circumstances involving their own family members so I want to acknowledge their continued high level of professionalism.

When will the next update be?

There will definitely be another update next week from me but it might not be until the middle of the week. Leadership and staff will first need the chance to assess student numbers after Monday and make any resultant decisions.

Kind regards,
Anthony Fischer
Principal