

GLENELG PRIMARY SCHOOL

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No canteen from start of Term 2

At this stage we have been instructed to close the canteen, i.e. the canteen will not be open at the start of Term 2. Like many things, we don't yet know when this might change.

Starting with a go-kart, aiming for a Rolls Royce

Staff at GPS (and all schools of course) are working really hard this week to completely re-invent the way school operates. If I use a motor car metaphor, we are confident that we will have a zippy little go-kart ready by Thursday 9th April, i.e. a workable solution to the complex education circumstances we are facing. We certainly want to build a Rolls Royce in the long term, but we need to be realistic in terms of what is initially possible. We know we will need to make some changes along the way once Term 2 starts to make things "even better if..."

Class structures for Term 2

We have taken all parent decisions we received about learning from home and learning at school into account, and re-structured accordingly. We have had to re-organise all classes and one of the differences for the start of Term 2 is that we don't have any composite classes, i.e. all children who were in a 2/3, 4/5, 5/6 or 6/7 class will now be with a group of children in Year 2 or Year 3 or Year 4 or Year 5 or Year 6 or Year 7. No class will look exactly the same as it did in Term 1, but in nearly all cases, students at school will still have some lessons with their 'Term 1 teacher', and students at home will still have contact with their 'Term 1 teacher'. Like everything, class structures may need to change as the term progresses.

Teachers will be working very closely as 'Year level teams'. This will look slightly different in various year levels, but each teacher of a year level will be on a 'rotating roster' where they teach/set work for each group at that year level, whether at school or at home. I intend to publish which teachers are in which year level teams this week; there are still a few final details being confirmed at the moment.

'Two week blocks' of learning

All children will be involved in 'two week blocks' of learning. This acknowledges the huge range of situations we have at home where some families have adults busy working from home themselves, while some families have an adult able to sit with children during each day. The 'two week blocks' of learning will have sufficient flexibility for families to schedule learning during the week that best suits their situation. The 'two week blocks' of learning will have similar learning intentions and cover similar content no matter what environment a child is learning in. Of course, methods of undertaking a specific task or series of activities may look a little different sometimes for children at home with a device/internet, compared to children at home who may require a paper copy of supporting materials, compared to children at school. There will be individual packs for each child learning at home. I'll send more information later about how families can access these packs, how to return packs for the teacher to see the work and then how teachers will provide work for the next two weeks.

Department for Education advice for successfully setting up learning at home

Please see the attachment I'll include with this update. It contains advice from the Department for Education regarding successfully setting up learning at home.

Very proud

I remain extremely proud of the way staff at school are showing creativity and diligence this week in ensuring the best learning outcomes for all of our 800 children, no matter what each child's individual circumstances are. I look forward to providing more details soon about Term 2 learning.

Kind regards,
Anthony Fischer
Principal