

NEWSLETTER



Principal: Tamara Halket

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Tuesday 19h May

Dear Families,

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning. It has been an interesting time that has created learning opportunities for us all that we may not have realised were possible until we were left with no other option. There has been the opportunity to learn new technology, ways of learning, and learn more about each other as the GDPS community. For these aspects of a dire situation, I am thankful that some positives have emerged.

Following advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has advised that schools can begin a staged return to on-site schooling.

Stage one: 25 May – 5 June

In the first stage, students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2, and Grade 3 students will return to school from Tuesday 26 May. To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, Monday 25 May will be a pupil-free day.

Stage two: from 9 June

In the second stage of our return to on-site schooling, all other year levels will return to on-site schooling from Tuesday 9 June.

For those students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of on-site schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which on-site schooling is required will continue for this two-week period. All other students in these grades and year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to on-site schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home. This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan.

This same approach is being taken by all government schools in Victoria.



Health, hygiene, physical distancing

To support the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff, our schools will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent hand washing. We have hand sanitizer, reminder prompts and extended cleaning schedules.

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice to all schools that is available.

Changes to drop-off times and access to school sites

Restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students. This applies in all schools. We ask for parents and carers to please wait in, or in front of cars for drop-off or pick up. There will be additional supervision to ensure the safety of children.

We ask that all school staff's health and wellbeing be respected, as we respect that of the community, by *not approaching in person without specific prior arrangement*. School staff may have health conditions that the community are unaware of, and we want to maintain the privacy and health rights of all school staff. This is for the benefit of the entire school community and we thank you for your understanding.

Adults that require access to the school at any time are asked to call in advance to make arrangements. School staff will determine actions on a case by case basis, using a sensible approach to decisions made. We understand that this may cause frustration, but it is critical that GDPS follows all Department advice and guidelines. Phone meetings will be the preferred arrangement.

Borrowed equipment

Equipment will stay on loan until your child returns to school. Please call the office to arrange the return of borrowed equipment. This may be in the form of a designated time to return items to the office, or for a staff member to meet you at your car for their return.

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. This decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

We look forward to a return to onsite teaching and learning. Please check our Facebook and Website for further information that may be useful for a smooth transition.

Have a great week, Tamara Halket



CHAPLAINS CORNER



Greetings to our GPS community!

Well, finally we are now starting to see the easing of some of the lock-down restrictions. Although we all still need to be vigilant, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Today, I thought I would share with you some very appropriate tips for looking after your family wellbeing from Professor Bruce Robinson, founder of “The Fathering Project.”

Maintain ‘normal’ day-to-day routines where possible – e.g. keep regular wake up and bedtimes, playing and getting outdoors, exercise, learning times and working times.

Use family meetings for wellbeing check-ins – ask open questions about how everyone is coping and how the family is functioning together. What is working? What isn’t going so well?

Tune into your family’s feelings – Let them know that it is normal to have a range of feelings during this time and it is really good to talk about them.

Stay connected with family and friends – Keep regular contact via phone or video calls. As social beings we need to be connected to be healthy and happy.

Focus on the positives – Each day ask your family members to think of something they are happy about, grateful for, have laughed at or have enjoyed.

Take care of yourself – Your children will be looking to you and how you are managing and responding.

*If you feel you need more information or links to support for you and your family, you can find this in our new At Home section of The Fathering Project website.
www.thefatheringproject.org/at-home*

*If you are struggling, call Lifeline on 131 114, or Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636.
If children are struggling, they can call Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800 or Youth Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636*

While the restrictions are easing, I will be at the school each Tuesday and working from home on my other regular day, although I am happy to make myself available to chat with parents outside those hours, so please feel free to contact me on the number below if you would like to chat.

Take care,

Brian Heath
School Chaplain
0492 863 669







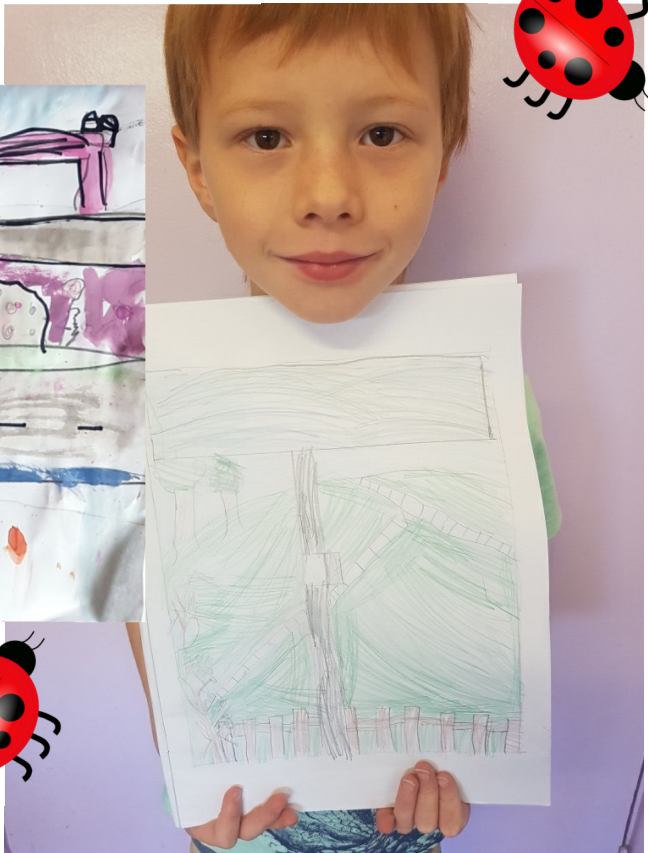
Eagles of the week



**Elsie,
Bailey M & Emily**



'OUTSIDE MY WINDOW' - LANDSCAPE DRAWINGS





**CHECK OUT OUR
DIORAMAS. CAN YOU
GUESS THE FAIRY
TALE?**

