



# The Galston Gumnut

Galston Public School Newsletter

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020

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*Respect*

*Responsibility*

*Personal Best*

Week 10, Term 1

## Calendar Dates

Week 10, Term 1	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Principal's Morning Tea – Postponed (New Date TBA)
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Peer Support Session 7 – Postponed
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	GPS Cross Country Carnival – Postponed (New Date TBA)
Week 11, Term 1	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Parent/Teacher Interviews – Postponed (New Date TBA)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Anzac Service – <b>Cancelled</b>
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Peer Support Session 8 – Postponed
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Hat Parade - <b>Cancelled</b>

Note	Due Date

## From the Principal

**Moving to a new learning platform** – Weeks 9 and 10 have proven an interesting and unusual time for our teachers, support staff and families at Galston Public School! As always, learning for our students and safety for all remain top priorities. In this vein, we were very pleased with the large turnout of parents welcomed last Thursday and Friday to collect laptops and learning packs to facilitate learning from home. Social distancing was maintained and the orderly manner in which everyone moved throughout the school was impressive.

This one method of delivery for learning has provided the opportunity for professional learning for our teachers. In many ways, our use of technology has been brought forward. They say necessity is the mother of invention, and this has certainly been the case for myself as well as our teachers, as we have navigated one note, virtual meetings via teams and the myriad of other tools being used to ensure our children remain connected to their learning! Our parents have also had to adapt to new roles this week, with many juggling working from home with the challenges that facilitating this online learning presents. Teachers have been connecting with students/families throughout the week via phone call catch ups, and families have been using the usual channels of school phone and email to get in touch with their teachers to sort out issues as they arise. Your patience throughout this process is appreciated!

Please know that as we progress through the remainder of the term, as well as into next term if necessary, our teachers will continue to reflect and refine the lessons being delivered remotely to engage our children.

A reminder of information relating to COVID-19 and latest information, which at this stage we are informed will be in place for the remainder of Term 1 (up to and including Thursday April 9):

1. Parents are strongly encouraged to keep their child/children at home if at all possible.
2. Schools remain open for those in the community who have no alternative but to send their child/children.
3. All students (either at home or at school) will receive one delivery mode of lessons to work through.

**Should this information change in the coming days/weeks, we will keep you updated as quickly as possible.**

Our teachers will be sending out their sequence of learning for the week ahead each Thursday afternoon for the week ahead.

Some points to consider as we continue with this new mode of delivery for learning:

- A “learning from home student and parent handbook” has been sent home to all families via email. Please take the time to read through this information carefully (with your child where appropriate).
- Students will be completing some work online and some in an exercise book or Maths text book which is sent home. While we don't expect perfection, there is an expectation that work completed will be the student's best effort.
- While we appreciate adult supervision, students are encouraged to complete their own work to the best of their ability.
- Feedback is a dish best served warm! If at all possible, it would be ideal if the adult supervising is able to mark work and/or give feedback to students as they complete tasks (eg maths tasks, spelling activities etc). Teachers will have some activities set where they are able to provide this feedback using technology within a short timeframe, however this is not possible for tasks completed in workbooks. Once written/book work is able to be returned when normal lessons resume, teachers will be sighting this and giving feedback as appropriate.
- Families are not expected to physically collect work from school. Work will be sent out on Thursday afternoon to be completed in the same cycle homework has traditionally been sent (ie Friday to the following Thursday). There is no expectation for work to be completed on weekends.
- Should you need to contact the teacher for any clarification/guidance on your students learning, please use the same channels as usual. A phone call to the school office or emailing the school email address is the most appropriate, and will be responded to as quickly as possible by your child's teacher.
- Learning with your children is supposed to be fun. **Please do not feel that every activity needs to be completed every day.** It may be appropriate to choose the activities which ignite your child's imagination, meet their needs in Literacy/Numeracy or allow you to be creative in how you deliver/complete work. This is one of the great joys of teaching! A good rule of thumb is to complete some reading, writing and maths work each day as a minimum.

[A new department hub is also now live, to find all information in relation to COVID-19](#)

**Public-facing hub - <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>**

- Quick links to help people find the info they want including all the ECE stuff
- FAQs for parents and the community
- News updates
- Wider Government updates – via links

A reminder that our Canteen and Uniform shop will remain non operational until further notice.

**E safety** – Please see below, as well as by following the link for information provided by Julie Inman Grant (e safety commissioner) sent to us from our Police Youth Liaison regarding safe use of technology at home throughout this COVID-19 pandemic.

**Whether through choice or necessity, an increasing number of people are staying home as COVID-19, a new strain of coronavirus, sweeps the globe. It's a worrying time, with implications for personal wellbeing right through to international stability.**

*The upside, if it could be said there is one, is that compared to any other period in history it is now far easier to limit face-to-face contact while keeping in touch with the outside world. The internet is a great tool for fending off the feeling of isolation, allowing us to socialise, study, shop and be entertained online.*

*A growing number of people can also work from home, thanks to the internet. But for many others, social distancing or quarantine means the loss of an income, adding to frustration and financial stress.*

*To make the best of being stuck at home, it is important to ensure you can find reliable information, stay connected with family and friends, help your children stay safe online – and stay mentally healthy too.*

*That last one can be particularly challenging, if you are facing the prospect of being cooped up with bored and restless kids or teens for an unusually long period!*

*So at eSafety we have put our heads together (though not too closely) and come up with this virtual safety kit, packed with evidence-based suggestions and trustworthy links to help you through.*

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/blog/covid-19-online-survival-kit-parents-and-carers>

**Teacher Readings** – In order to connect with our children whilst in isolation, teachers at Galston PS will be videoing themselves reading a story for our students K-6 to view from home over the coming weeks. From Kindergarten to Year 6, this is a fun way for our children to connect with a familiar face, while at the same time continuing their enjoyment of literature and sharing a laugh!

In advance, we would like to thank the publishers, authors and illustrators of these books, who have generously made the videoing and sharing of these stories possible by giving special copyright permission.

Our first story, “The Dinky Donkey”, is the sequel to the ever popular “The Wonky Donkey” and can be accessed via the secure YouTube link below:

<https://youtu.be/DBN4h1Bwf08>

This link will also be emailed to all families on Thursday, along with student work for the week ahead. Other videos (readings and songs) relating to these two stories are also easily accessible via a quick search of youtube.

It was my pleasure to be the first cab off the rank with this initiative, and we look forward to the stories our teachers share over the coming weeks.

**Vacation Care Survey** – With the school holidays coming up from the end of next week, please see the information below, sent out to look at how to best support families from the Department of Education.

*Dear Parents and Caregivers,*

*As we move toward the Term 1 vacation period the Department’s Before and After School Care (BASC) team has committed to collecting and collating vital information regarding vacation care.*

*To support this process, we are asking that all families who require care for their children complete a survey regarding care arrangements for the upcoming holiday period.*

*The Department is working with vacation care providers to ensure that the needs of all families are met during the Term 1 holiday period.*

*Please complete the online survey to confirm your child/children’s care requirements, which can be found here:*  
<https://surveys.education.nsw.gov.au/s3/school-holiday-care>

*For those of you who are using the printed version of this survey, please return the completed survey to the school by COB Friday 3 April 2020.*

In addition to this survey, please contact Shanna at Galston Public School OOSH on **0467 563 533** should your child/family require Vacation Care for the upcoming break.

*Allan Ison*

## *Canteen News*

Due to the ongoing situation we have closed the Canteen for the remainder of Term 1 and until schools resume normal operations. We will update parents as soon as we are able to regarding the date of re-opening. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to parents.

Louise O'Rourke – *Canteen Committee*

## *Uniform Shop*

We encourage all parents and carers to order uniforms via Flexischools. Orders will be packed and sent home with students when schools resume normal operations.

Any enquiries please contact us via [uniformshop@galstonpandc.org.au](mailto:uniformshop@galstonpandc.org.au)

Kristie Chambers and Belinda Crofts – *Uniform Shop Coordinators*

**St Benedict's Catholic Church Arcadia** - Although the church building is currently closed and Masses and Services have been suspended, all are invited to go to the parish website [bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia](http://bbcatholic.org.au/arcadia) or Facebook page stbenedict sarcadia to access information and ideas how to celebrate Easter at home this year.



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