



Newsletter 4, 23rd April 2020

Foster Primary School Newsletter

Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Welcome back to a rather different Term2.

It's really great to be back after my leave although it is very different. I hope everyone is managing with the isolation and remote learning. Remember, if you or your children are finding elements of the Remote Online Learning difficult, please, please do not hesitate to contact your classroom teacher. We are all in this together and tweaking and improving as we go. This way of working is as new for the teachers as it is for students and parents.

We warmly welcome ANY feedback and will be reviewing the online learning each week as a whole school using Webex. All teachers are also meeting online in their teams each week to ensure planning is consistent and appropriate so your feedback at any stage is most welcome and helpful. We have already made many changes as a consequence of the feedback we have received thus far.

I thank all the teachers for the remarkable amount of time and effort being put into the planning of appropriate learning materials and to parents and carers for all your support in helping your children learn remotely. I understand that many of you are juggling working from home as well as trying to help your children and am so very grateful for all your support. Thank you also to the teachers for ensuring regular contact with families and to families for being so open and honest and supportive of the school.

Positive Climate for Learning

I have tried to send out Compass notes/ Facebook updates when I am made aware of supports that are available in the community/ more generally. Remember that our Welfare Officer, Emily Purvis is also available should you need some specific advice regarding the welfare of your children. Emily will be available 3 days a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

We also welcome Sarah Thurgood into 3/4 D for the term whilst Mr Davis is on leave. She has hit the ground running and has been supporting many parents with the move to Google Classrooms and online learning, having done much learning in a very short space of time herself!

I thank Ms Power and Ms Prior for working together to look after Ms Paulet's



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Principal:

Mrs Lorraine Gurnett

School no. 6221

Hours of supervision:

8.30am—3.30pm

SCHOOL TERM DATES

Term 1, 2020

Wednesday January
29th—Friday 27th
March

Term 2, 2020

Wednesday 15th
April—Friday 26th
June

Term 3, 2020

Monday 13th July—
Friday 18th September

Term 4, 2020

Monday 5th October—
Friday 18th December

No School Assemblies
until further notice.

School Vision: Everyone Can Learn to Learn.

School Values: Be a Learner, Be Respectful, Be Safe, Be Caring.

IMPORTANT DATES

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SPORTS & EXCURSIONS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED AT THIS TIME.

April

10th Good Friday
15th Term 2 begins

May

June

26th Last day Term 2

July

13th First day Term 3

August

September

18th Last day Term 3

October

5th First day Term 4

November

December

18th Last day Term 4

Please check the school [webpage](#) for a list of important dates for 2020.

grade whilst Ms Paulet is on leave, ensuring that all children across 5/6 have the same learning opportunities and have regular access to and support of a classroom teacher.

On a different note, we had some very major works carried out during the school holidays, with asbestos being removed from large parts of the school and replaced and painted with newer, safer materials. There is very little asbestos left in the school now which is a great outcome.

Community Engagement in Learning

Last night we had our first virtual School Council meeting and welcomed our new members, Sharon Best, Lucy Allsop, Mary Fitzgerald and Kim White. We also had our election of Office Bearers and congratulate Matt Wallis as School Council President, Geoff Treloar as Vice President and Jess Johnston as Treasurer. We had an interesting meeting given the circumstances and carried on with much behind the scenes work, updating policies and updating school council about remote learning. Parents told us about the way they were all dealing with home schooling and the different approaches they were taking. One parent said that, given she had 4 children at home (including 2 preschoolers) she was adapting the tasks so that everyone could be involved. For example, the task set was an online one about money, so instead, they wrote shopping lists and made a pretend shop and did their pretend shopping, as a family. Another parent said that they look at the schedule and then give their children choices about when they do the tasks. Another family was sharing responsibility for different tasks, so dad did the PE tasks and mum did French. The feedback was that the children enjoyed seeing videos of their teachers rather than You Tube clips, as it offered the children a greater sense of connection and they seemed more engaged.

These are great examples of families adapting the learning tasks to suit their situations. We understand that most parents are not teachers and we appreciate you are doing the best you can. We are here to help you at every stage, so, again, please reach out if you need help/ support. This is a great period of change and learning for everyone, just do the best you can and enjoy this precious time with your children.

I shall endeavour to keep you as up to date as possible with either remote learning, COVID-19 or any other developments as they happen.

Please keep in touch, we are all in this together.