



## Learning from Home Activities – Precautionary Planning

Friday, August 13, 2021

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Since Mid-Term 1, our staff have been working collaboratively to plan *Learning from Home* tasks, should the need arise. All of our collaborative units and outcome planning, in accord with the syllabus, has also taken into account what activities could be taught should *Learning from Home* need to take place. At this point in time, while our students are not yet *Learning from Home*, our school is sending home a *Learning from Home Pack* for each child, should the need arise. This is just a precaution.

Written work packs are being sent home with every child at school today. If a child is absent, their sibling is taking the pack home. If there is no sibling to take a child's pack home, it will be sent to your family via mail.

***Please ensure that your child does not complete the work until advised.***

### How will we communicate in the event of Learning from Home?

- **Class Dojo Messenger:** Teachers will communicate with parents via Class Dojo Messenger. If you do not have this app already, please email Merimbula Public School at [merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) and provide us with your preferred email address, child/ren's name and class. Our administration team and teachers will then invite you to the closed class group requested.
- **School Stream:** Messages to parents and families will be sent from the school, Stage Leader, Principal and Administration Team via our School Stream app. These messages may be stage based, restriction updates, Learning from Home updates and/or regular school communications, such as the weekly newsletter. Some of these items, such as the newsletter and whole school information, will also be forwarded to the email address families have registered with School Stream. Should you not have School Stream already, please use this link to find out how to connect with us using School Stream on an iPhone, iPad, android or tablet device: <https://www.schoolstream.com.au/download/>
- **Facebook:** Some general alerts, messages, information and positive news stories will be shared via our Facebook page. Please do not contact staff via their private Facebook or messenger accounts.
- **Phone:** Our school phone will still be in operation during business hours (8.30am-3.15pm) unless the school is required to be closed. Staff should not be contacted via their private phones, mobile/s or home phone.

Teachers will endeavour to phone families and ask to speak to students in their class at least once a week, to check in on their students and their learning, as well as, to be able to support them with their learning. If you miss this call, as *messages will not be left on voice mail*, your child's teacher will let you know they tried to call you via Class Dojo private message. If this occurs, please let your child's teacher know of a few suitable times to call back during school hours (via Class Dojo messenger or by emailing the school email address).

- **Email:** Questions, compliments, concerns or feedback of a whole-school nature, can be emailed to the school at: [merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) Messages can be addressed to a class teacher, staff member, Assistant Principal, Principal, our Librarian, Music Teacher, Physical Education Teacher, Learning Support Team or Learning Assistance and Support Teacher. Requests for School Psychologist support should be addressed to the Principal for approval.
- **Department of Education School Updates App:** Updates from the Department, including if school closures take place (including if this happens for our school), will be communicated via the Parents and Carers NSW School Updates App, which can be downloaded for your IOS or android mobile at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/nsw-school-updates-app>

- **Merimbula Public School/Department of Education Website and Department of Education Facebook Page:** These communication modes will also offer families additional ways to find out information from the Department of Education. The Department's Learning from Home Hub can also be accessed for additional work and home learning ideas. The hub can be located at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home/learning-at-home>

### What work will my child complete?

- **Short Term:** A 1-week paper-based work booklet and related activity grid has been sent home today. Should your child need to use it, another one will be mailed home the week prior (if possible), or on the next workday possible, for your child to use.
- **Marking of Work:** Should students be learning from home for longer than a week, student work can be returned to school in one of the following ways:
  - *Putting the work in a 'mail box' that will be located in the bus bay each Friday between 9.30am and 2.30pm.*
  - *Scanning the work and emailing it to the school email address, marked 'attention (ATTN)' to your child's class teacher in the email's 'subject' field. EMAIL: [merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) ;*
  - *Posting it to the school.*Should students return to school within the week, or early the following week, the work can be brought back to school by your child.
- **Long Term:** Should Learning from Home continue beyond a couple of weeks, additional technology-based learning activities may be introduced, together with Google Classroom, as was the case in 2020. Any changes in this regard will be communicated with families via the communication modes mentioned above.

Prior to making any long-term Learning from Home decisions, especially those introducing technology, we would ensure that students have access to, or could loan, school technology in the interest of equity, accessibility and sustainability (reducing paper use).

### How will I know about local restrictions and how to keep my child/family safe and well?

- Please keep up to date with restrictions, health advice and alerts via the **NSW Health** website or Facebook page.
- Today we have sent home a 10-pack of *face masks* with every Year 6 student, should they need them for bus travel, public transport or attending venues with you and your family outside of school. Face masks do not need to be worn at school at this time. If this changes, parents/caregivers will be informed via School Stream and Facebook.
- Please remember, that should we require to take part in *Learning from Home*, your family's and child's wellbeing is more important than what work they may not be able to do at any point in time. Please reach out to your child's class teacher, via Class Dojo messenger during school hours, should you or your child need support.
- After hours support services include:

*Lifeline Australia: 13 11 14*  
*Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636*  
*Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800*  
*Emergency: 000*  
*Confidential Helpline: 1800 737 732*  
*Mensline: 1300 78 99 78*  
*Relationships Australia: 1300 364 277*

If you have any questions about Learning from Home, or our school's precautionary planning, please contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo messenger, or our administration team on (02) 64951266 during business hours.

Regards,  
Michelle Hulme  
Principal