

# BULLETIN



East Bentleigh  
Primary School

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Term 2 / Week 1 : 16th Apr 2020

**SCHOOL VISION:** East Bentleigh Primary School provides a rich, inviting, child-focused environment ensuring that all students feel safe and stimulated. Our students are able to achieve their full academic, creative and social potential, equipped for the challenges of lifelong learning. Students develop into healthy and confident individuals, actively contributing to the world in which they live.

## At East Bentleigh Primary School we are committed to child safety.

Dear Parents,

Welcome our first bulletin of this term; a term that will be etched in our memories for many years to come. I'm sure it will be one of those... 'do you remember what you were doing when' moments of our children's generations. For me it was the moon landing in 1969 - I remember distinctly the excitement of having 'technology' in the old classroom at Albert Street PS (a tiny little black and white portable TV) on a trolley on the ledge under the blackboard. I wonder if you have one of these memories? My other significant one was when I first heard that Elvis had died in 1977 (I was a huge fan) I was on my way to lectures at Frankston Teachers College.

Reports on the first day of remote learning in Victoria, based on the government directive *that all students who can learn from home must learn from home*, were mixed across the state with some schools relying purely on technology having issues as some systems were stretched by the volume of users. The feedback from teachers and parents from our school is that despite some early hiccups with managing technology and new routines all went pretty smoothly. I believe our mixed approach of both some technology and some pencil paper tasks has been positive for us. I'm sure that we will iron out any 'kinks' as we move through the term.

Whilst I acknowledge that this term's remote learning experience will impose some difficulties for some families, I think it's important that we all understand why this decision has been made.

The reason for this decision was reiterated yesterday by Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Dr Brett Sutton, who stated:

*"My advice to the Victorian Government was and continues to be that to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), schools should undertake remote learning for term two.*

*This is because having around a million children and their parents in closer contact with teachers and other support staff has the potential to increase cases of coronavirus not just in schools but across the community.*

*By having remote learning, it can contribute to physical distancing and therefore supports efforts to drive transmission down."*

Our teachers are working very hard to adapt to our new circumstances, (we would certainly all prefer to be working together on site and in person), and we have certainly appreciated the positive feedback we have had so far. I ask that you all remain patient and approach every day with a positive 'growth mindset' approach. As Education Minister James Merlino said a couple of days ago, some things will work well, others maybe not, but with a positive team mindset we will all come out of this healthy, happy and having learned many new skills.

Moving forward any families requiring their child to complete their on line learning on-site (emergency workers only), must advise me by the Thursday of the previous week, by completing the form sent home earlier this week, so that I can make appropriate arrangements here at school for their supervision. Any children attending on-site must be signed in and out by a parent.

### Capital Works

Despite the momentous change that COVID-19 has imposed on us, I am delighted to say that the work on our new building has continued to progress. Much of the inside work has begun to take shape with the ceilings and acoustic materials, toilet floors, as well as many other components now installed. The landscaping plan has now taken shape as well - please refer to the next page for the plan. What a beautiful new space this will be once completed.

Finally during term 2 due to the changed circumstances, we will send home a bulletin every week, instead of alternating bulletins and newsletters.

Finally (again)... there are many resources available to support parents during this time. Thank you to Kate Raynor for sharing this one. We hope that you find it useful. <https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/schools-really-out>

Until next .....*Maria Shearn - Principal* 😊

## Message from School Office - Contacting the school

Please try to email the school on [east.bentleigh.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:east.bentleigh.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) if you have any enquires.

Our school email will be monitored daily during school hours. All calls to the school will be diverted to an off-site number, however email communication is preferred - as all enquiries can then be dealt with or forwarded to the applicable person.

