Dear Families,

Thank you to all those who joined our Zoom meeting last night. It is really wonderful to stay connected during this difficult time and keep up to date with current information. Another Zoom meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd April at 6.30pm to touch base before the new term. An invitation will be sent shortly via Schoolzine. This morning we held our regular Skype meeting with DoE Secretary Tim Bullard. Attached is the new information from today with regards to arrangements for Term 2. There is also a form titled Term 2 Parent/carer Preference for Learning. Please return this information to the school as soon as possible.

There will be a Professional Learning Day for teachers on Monday 27th April with students starting school on the following day, Tuesday 28th April.

This week teachers have been busily preparing for ‘learning at home’ due to commence in Week 1 of Term 2. We appreciate your understanding at this difficult time as teachers have until now been managing face to face teaching time as well as commencing preparations for online learning. We have greatly appreciated your patience and support over the past weeks. The following information will help to guide you during these highly unusual circumstances.

**Online Communication Tools**

After meeting as a staff, we have agreed that the majority of online learning will be shared via the Seesaw or Padlet Apps. These apps have been chosen for their ease of use. Many of you will already be familiar with Seesaw and a number of classroom teachers have been preparing information about how to use Padlet as an online learning tool.

Classes will be sharing learning via:

- Kinder Martin - Seesaw
- Kinder Miller - Seesaw
- Prep Scott – Seesaw
- Prep Smalley – Seesaw
- 1WF – Seesaw
- 1/2K – Seesaw
- 2CB – Seesaw
- 3/4Hill – Seesaw/Padlet
- 3/4 CA – Seesaw/Padlet
- 4/5M – Padlet
- 5/6 Bentley – Padlet
- 5/6 Briggs – Padlet
Online Check-in Times with Teachers

Teachers will aim to check in with students at a designated time via an online platform. Individual class teachers will share information about these sessions with parents for their own class purposes. Phone messages and emails are also an option for families to stay in contact.

Please note, during Term 2, teachers will be regularly replying to multiple student queries while also preparing learning, teaching some students face to face and continuing to do administration tasks.

Responses to individual questions may not always be immediate and we ask for patience in this regard.

Students will become familiar with how to submit work online and set a link about how to use online tools to enable the sending of photos, video/audio messages and notes and how to attach files using these platforms. If for some reason your child is having difficulty, please contact your teacher via Seesaw. Please note that Padlet is a public forum platform before posting information.

Class teachers will also provide details about how students should best contact the teacher in times of difficulty.

Screen Time for Children

It is the responsibility of parents to monitor how much time students are spending on screens during the day.

Teachers will be posting activities for students to do at home using Seesaw or Padlet. Many of these tasks require students to then complete ‘paper based’ work. The paper based packs being provided will be very similar to the activities being posted online. Please follow you class teachers’ directions re collection of paper packs. Some screen time may be needed for students to post and submit work but this should only take a short amount of time.

While students can still access sites such as Reading Eggs and Mathletics, the majority of their work should be ‘offline’ learning tasks.

Student Wellbeing

Clearly, working from home will be very different from the classroom learning environment. Remember that students will require a mixture of focused learning time, online time, outside and physical activity and brain breaks. Teachers will continue to guide students and help them to manage their time during a week. As this is a learning experience for all, please remember that everyone is doing their best in these difficult circumstances.

Paper Based Work Packs

Teachers will aim to provide a paper based ‘work pack’ on a fortnightly basis for those unable to access the internet or technical device. These packs will give a rough guide of the topics being covered over the following two weeks. The first of these packs will be available to collect from school on Thursday 23rd April, Friday 24th April or during the first week of Term 2. There will be a collection point for classes at the school.

Learning at Home – Department of Education Information

For more information about setting up learning environments and for more online resources, please see these two Department of Education sites.
https://padlet.com/blendedlearning1/offline

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this incredibly difficult time. Thank you also to the many parents who have been encouraging of our hard working staff. If during the term you require assistance with a more complex issue regarding access to online learning or for other urgent matters, please contact myself or a member of senior staff by contacting the school office via phone or email.

We recommend families checking out the below link, it is a really good resource for accessing the Australian Curriculum.
https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/parent-information/

Yours sincerely
Blackmans Bay Primary School Team