



We have three
baby budgies in
Bimblemeer!

IBIS FLYER

Balnarring Primary School

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September 10th, 2020

Acting Principal and Acting Assistant Principal's Report

Despite the stage 4 restrictions the past fortnight seems to have gone very quickly and here we are thinking about our newsletter again!

Daniel Andrews' slow but steady roadmap for reopening Victoria has given us all something to 'look forward to!'

As term three draws to a close we would like to thank our wonderful staff, amazing students and dedicated parents for the commitment shown to this second 'remote and flexible' learning period. Despite teachers and students being off-site there have been many, many wonderful success stories proudly shared (*the dancing skills of our staff don't quite fit this category though!*)

We acknowledge that remote and flexible learning has not been easy - and we know that it is not yet over.

From Saturday 19th September until Sunday 4th October the school will be closed for the term break.

Term 4 begins on Monday 5th October.

Remote and flexible learning will continue for all year levels during the week Monday 5th - Friday 9th October. Work plans will be available after 3 o'clock on the Friday prior to the first week of term, as you are all accustomed to now. Parents holding Permitted Work Permits can continue to drop their children at the school gate during this week. Children will be supervised and cared for whilst they complete their online learning. On-site attendance forms will need to be completed by the parent.

Students in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 will return to on-site schooling from Monday 12th October.

Our 2020 specialist timetable will operate from that date. All specialist teachers will return to on-site teaching for students in Foundation - Year 2 and will continue to provide suggested PE, Music, Japanese and Science activities for those in Years 3 - 6 via TEAMS.

To support our Foundation - Year 2 teachers reset their classrooms there will be NO SMALL GROUP TEACHING SESSIONS ON FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER, the last day of week 1.

This is the plan for a staged return to school - at the moment!

Amongst all this uncertainty we are also beginning to plan for the 2021 school year.

The Principal position will be readvertised during term 4, with the successful applicant to commence at our school on the first day of the 2021 school year.

We have welcomed many 2021 Foundation students and their families into our school learning community via a 'welcome letter.' We have also commenced a 'waitlist'.

To help us to plan for 2021 we ask that, apart from our Year 6 students, if your children will NOT be returning to Balnarring next year can you please call us at the office (or send an email to balnarring.ps@education.vic.gov.au) as soon as you can. Thank you for your assistance.

We have been sent information about Dr Michael Carr-Gregg's presentation "Managing the Coronacoaster". Dr Carr-Gregg is a renowned child psychologist. The event will be held next Tuesday 15th September at 7:30pm. In his webinar Dr Carr-Gregg provides tools and strategies for parents/carers to help manage the lockdown period and remote learning.

If you are interested in this free event please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/managing-the-coronacoaster-tips-for-building-resilient-families-registration-117927100131>

In addition the Department of Education and Training (DET) has helped fund the Raising Children Network to deliver a 10 episode podcast series called 'Raising Learners'. The podcasts aim to provide parents/carers with practical advice, tips and ideas for supporting children's health, wellbeing and engagement both at school and at home. There is a range of topics including 'How to keep our children safe online'. These can be accessed at <https://raisingchildren.net.au>

Finally today is RUOK day? None of us have ever experienced a year like this. While we know you will continue to support those around you, particularly your children, we do hope that you are also taking good care of yourselves.

We appreciate the care that you continue to direct toward our staff as they support their students, their own families and loved ones and for some, deal with sad, personal issues during this most challenging of times.

We would like to wish you a lovely, SUNNY term break when it comes.

We look forward to working with you again after the holidays as we navigate another 'interesting' term.



Sandy

Fiona

Stay safe, stay well,
Sandy and Fi.