

Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Dear parents and carers

As school holidays for our children and young people start tomorrow, we understand how important it is that you know what is planned for your child's learning for Term 2.

There is no doubt that Term 1 has been a challenging and uncertain time for all of us as we work together to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our Tasmanian community. It has resulted in change in many areas of our lives, including what learning looks and feels like for you and your child. Thank you so much for your patience and support as we navigate this together.

Next week, teachers will be planning Term 2 learning for your child, carefully considering the individual needs of your child and their class. We have already been doing an enormous amount of work behind the scenes to support Term 2 learning, and I know your Principal and teachers are looking forward to telling you more about this as Term 2 gets underway.

What is planned for Term 2

During Term 2 in Tasmanian Government Schools, students will **continue to learn at home, with teachers leading this learning**. The situation will be regularly reviewed based on Public Health advice and updates.

- Students will start Term 2 on **Tuesday, 28 April 2020**. (Monday will be a teaching preparation day – student free).
- The intention is that students will continue to learn at home in Term 2 with support from teachers.
- Teachers will provide students with a learning schedule and suitable learning activities, which:
 - May be online, offline, or a combination of both
 - Will align with the relevant Curriculum for your child's age group.
- Teachers will be in regular contact with students to provide support for the learning activities.
- Schools will still be open for students but only if your circumstances mean that you are unable to supervise (eg work commitments) or support your child's learning at home.

Supporting learning at home – helpful tips

Through supporting your child's learning at home, you will likely experience a range of emotions. These will probably include challenging moments, but also joyful and rewarding times. Remember, you are not expected to be the expert. The most important thing you can do during Term 2 is to encourage your child to be interested in their learning by:

- Talking about the activity with your child
- Asking curious questions
- Encouraging them to keep trying.

Supporting your child's wellbeing is also important at this time. You can do this by:

- Encouraging physical activity (where possible)
- Discovering opportunities to be creative
- Finding new ways to stay connected with family and friends.

One of the most important ways you can support your child to feel connected to their school community is to keep in touch with your school. Your school will continue to communicate with you in normal ways, such as school newsletters, email, social media or by phone.

Remember that your child's teacher is still their teacher, and your child's Principal is still their Principal. They, and school support staff, remain committed to helping your child achieve their best. Your child's teacher will continue to be available to support their learning, so if you have any questions, please get in touch.

School vacation care

Vacation care will be available if required during the additional holiday week, 6-9 April 2020. Please contact your usual Education and Care provider or talk to your Principal to discuss your needs.

We all want life to return to normal as soon as possible. To stop the spread of COVID-19 it is really important that your children and young people do not mix in groups of more than two people, who are not their immediate family, during the holidays.

For all of us this will mean that school holidays will look a lot different to usual. Across Tasmania, parents will be facing the same challenge: to think of creative ways to entertain children, while following social distancing requirements.

We wish you enjoyable school holidays – different as they might be – and look forward to sharing Term 2 with you.

Yours sincerely



Tim Bullard
Secretary



Jeremy Rockliff MP
Minister for Education and Training