

Goornong Primary School Newsletter

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Issue 14

Our school values—**teamwork**, **respect**, **honesty** and **care**.

Please note that the school newsletter is uploaded to the school's website. Copies of past newsletters are also available!

Dates to Remember

Term Three

Sun 6th Sept	Father's Day
Mon 14th Sept	School Council Meeting
Tues 15th Sept	School Photos (tentative date)
Fri 18th Sept	Last day of Term 3, 2.15pm dismissal

Term Four

Mon 5th Oct	First day of Term 4
Fri 30th Oct	Book Week Dress Up Day
Fri 18th Dec	Last day of Term 4, 2.15pm dismissal

2020 Term Dates

Term Three	Mon 13th July—Fri 18th Sept
Term Four	Fri 5th Oct—Fri 18th Dec

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to our award winners.

<u>Award</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Last Week</u>
P-2 Literacy 	Eddie S	Amy O
P-2 Maths 	Emilie J	Olivia M
3-6 Literacy 	Brayden P & Charlie C	Cooper S
3-6 Maths 	Mitchell W	Ted C & Jesse C

Hay Bales Wanted

If anyone has any spare bales of hay (spoilt even), we would love to have them to use as mulch for the garden. If you are able to help, please just drop them at the front of the Chook Camp anytime. Thank You.

Term 3 Parent-Teacher Interviews

Despite the current remote learning situation, we will be proceeding with our Term Three Parent-Teacher Interviews. These will be held over four days—**Tuesday 1st, Thursday 3rd, Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th September**—and are an opportunity for parents to find out about how their child is progressing with their schooling.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are not able to offer parents an on-site interview. Instead, we are offering parents the choice of two different options for their interview. When booking your interview time via UEducateUs, parents will have the choice of:

Option 1: Interview via videoconference. *The school will provide instructions for parents on how to connect. A computer and internet connection is required.*

Option 2: Interview via telephone call. *Teachers would contact parents on their mobile phone number at the allotted interview time.*

Please note that different to in the past, there is no expectation for students to join their parents at the parent-teacher interview. However, parents are welcome to include their child with if they so wish.

Once again, parents are asked to book their parent-teacher interview via the UEducateUs system either on their mobile device or PC. Simply login to your UEducateUs Portal where a notification will appear regarding parent-teacher interviews and follow the links to book your time.

For parents with more than one child, please note that we have fixed the gremlin in the system that has been an issue in past. Parents should now be able to book back-to-back interviews where they have two or more children at the school. However, please let us know if there continue to be issues with this.

Parents will be able to book their interview time from 5.00pm today, Friday 21st August. Bookings will be able to be made up to 48 hours prior to the appointment time.

Principal's Report

REMOTE LEARNING 2.0

We have now completed three weeks of remote learning. After some early teething problems with technology it appears as though the transition to using Google Classroom to deliver the remote learning program to the students has been very successful.

It was been terrific to see most students logging in to Google Classroom on a daily basis to complete their set tasks. The teachers have regularly been checking to see which students are completing these and how they are progressing. Keep up the good work boys and girls!

The teachers and I have had lots of positive feedback from parents regarding this approach. In particular, that students are more accountable for completing their daily work and that there is increased interaction between students and their teachers. Students also appear to be more engaged in their learning from home. I am extremely confident that the program we now have up and running will maximise the opportunity for our students to maintain learning during this period.

COMMUNICATION

Over the past week or so the school has made an effort to ensure that at least one member of staff has been in contact with each family. We will continue to maintain regular contact with families, whilst trying not to place an extra burden on busy parents by 'hassling' them too often.

As always, please feel free to contact me at the school should you have any questions or require clarification on anything.

THANK YOU TEACHERS & STAFF

I again wish to acknowledge the tremendous work of our teachers and staff who have worked tirelessly over the past three weeks to provide the remote learning program for our students. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated, enthusiastic and capable team at Goornong PS—keep up the good work!

THANK YOU PARENTS

Thank you to all parents for your tremendous support of the students with their remote learning. The teachers and I really to appreciate your contribution and the important role you are currently all playing in your child's education.

REMOTE LEARNING—HOW LONG

Some parents have asked about how long the remote learning period will last. At this stage, the current restrictions are due to end on Sunday 13th September. However, the Victorian Government has said that they will make further announcements regarding schools closer to this date. Once arrangements are confirmed, we will notify our school community.

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

To ensure that all students are able to access their remote learning tasks the school has loaned a number of devices to families. We now have a limited capacity to loan devices. However, we encourage families to contact us should they require the loan of a device and we can endeavour to solve this problem. Our mission is to ensure that no student is disadvantaged due to the availability of technology.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACEMENTS (YEAR 7s 2021)

This week, our Grade 6 parents should have received a letter via post outlining their Grade 6 child's secondary school placement. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this or did not receive your letter.

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Given the recent announcement, we are currently working through arrangements for conducting parent teacher interviews in some form later this term. More to come.

2021 ENROLMENTS

The school is now taking enrolment for the 2021 school year. This includes for students beginning Prep in 2021. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions as a result of the coronavirus pandemic we have not been able to hold our Parent Information Night, which usually takes place around this time of year. Instead, we are asking prospective parents to contact the school directly if they are considering enrolling their child at our school.

I ask our current families to share this information should they know any prospective parents in our community.

Jason Cox

Principal

HOME LEARNING PHOTOS

Parents, it's great to see the students smiling faces learning from home! Feel free to send some photos through to Tearnna, to put into our newsletter.

Email: Tearnna.Filbey@education.vic.gov.au

IMPORTANT COVID-19 INFORMATION

STUDENT ILLNESS

A reminder that unwell students must not attend school, regardless of whether their symptoms are compatible with Covid-19 or not. Students who are unwell must not return to school until their symptoms have ceased. If students begin to feel ill whilst at school we will contact their parents and ask that the child be collected as soon as possible. We continue to encourage parents to seek the advice of their medical practitioner should their child display any symptoms compatible with Covid-19.

We draw parents' attention to the Australian Government Health Department website which has the following information regarding Covid-19 symptoms:



Australian Government
Department of Health

Symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild illness to pneumonia. Some people will recover easily, and others may get very sick very quickly. People with coronavirus may experience symptoms such as:

- *Fever*
- *respiratory symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and/or shortness of breath.*

Other symptoms can include runny nose, headache, muscle or joint pains, nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, loss of sense of smell, altered sense of taste, loss of appetite and fatigue.

To stop the spread of COVID-19 people with even mild symptoms of respiratory infection should get tested.

Source: www.health.gov.au

We thank everyone in our school community for their vigilance and support in helping to keep our students and staff safe and healthy. It continues to be important that our community remains attentive to this.

COVID-19 MANAGEMENT AT SCHOOL

Given the recent spike in coronavirus cases Victoria, it is timely to remind parents of the following important points regarding how any potential Covid-19 cases would be managed in the school context.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) has comprehensive procedures in place with the Department of Health and Human Services to manage suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in schools.

The school will contact the Department of Health and Human Services and notify the DET central office to activate the established procedures if a student or staff member:

- *is a **confirmed** case.*
- *has been in close contact with a **confirmed** case.*

DHHS defines 'close contact' as someone who has either:

- had at least 15 minutes of face-to-face contact with a **confirmed** case of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- shared a closed space for more than two hours with someone who is a confirmed case.

Anyone who is, or who has come into contact with, a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) is required to self-quarantine for a period of 14 days.

All unwell staff and students must stay home.

Staff or students experiencing compatible symptoms with coronavirus (COVID-19) (fever, cough or sore throat) whilst at school will be isolated in an appropriate space with suitable supervision and their parent/carer contacted to come and collect them as soon as possible.



Education and Training

WHEN IS MY CHILD OK TO COME TO SCHOOL?

The circumstances where students are not to attend school are when:

- 1) They are a confirmed Covid-19 case.
- 2) They are a close contact of a confirmed case.
- 3) They have been directed to self-isolate by DHHS.
- 4) They are unwell.
- 5) They are able to be supervised at home.

If your children fits into any of the categories above, they should not attend school. Otherwise, they would be right to come.