



Russell Island State School

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Dear parents and carers

The Premier has announced that from **Monday 11 May, 2020**, students in Kindy, Prep, Year 1, Year 11 and Year 12 will be able to return to their school and community kindergarten.

Children of essential workers and vulnerable children in years 2-6 will continue to be able to attend school for supervision.

For students in Years 2 – 6, the current home-based learning arrangements will remain in place. If low COVID-19 transmission rates continue, students in Years 2 – 6 will be able to return to school from **Monday 25 May, 2020**. Confirmation of this step will be made by 15 May 2020.

It is recognised that some parents may keep your child at home due to concerns about COVID-19 and this is respected. If parents choose to do this, I ask that you notify the school to discuss how we can support you as you continue to home school your child.

Teachers of Prep and Year 1 are unable to continue to provide the home learning packs from Monday May 11 2020 as these teachers are providing face-to-face teaching and learning in their classrooms. Additional resources are available on the learning@home website,

[Frequently asked questions](#) are available to assist you to understand how schools will be implementing the transition back to school-based learning. This includes hygiene practices such as effective hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, restricting visitors to the school and reminding you to notify our school if your child will not attend.

I ask parents and carers to pay particular attention to the requirement for adults to maintain physical distancing of 1.5m at all times if you need to be on school grounds. ***Please see the attachments regarding new areas and practices for drop off and pick up of children, starting Monday 11 May 2020. Also included are our new arrangements for collection and return of hard copy home learning packs.***

Parents and carers should not gather in areas around the school such as carpark spaces, footpaths, at the school gate and outside classrooms during this time. Please make use of our **new stop, drop and go areas for your children**. **Students travelling by bus will still enter and exit from the same gate. This gate is also for students in years 2-6 who are children of essential workers.**

It is essential that you keep your child home from school if they are unwell. In accordance with [Queensland Health Directions](#) parents or carers of any child, showing signs of illness will be asked to collect them immediately from the school.

If your child is in Years 2 – 6, their teacher will continue to deliver prepared lessons and materials via home-based learning, as they have over the last three weeks. Additional resources are also available at [The Learning Place](#) and learning@home website, which includes details about [Learning@Home TV](#) programs.

[Learning@home TV](#), is broadcast on channel 7TWO from 8.30–10.30am every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (excluding public holidays) and features Queensland curriculum-based lessons prepared and delivered by some of Queensland's outstanding school teachers. Content will cover English, Mathematics and Science lessons, along with health and wellbeing segments, and special guest appearances.

In addition, the Department of Education is also launching [reading@home TV](#) on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8.30–9.00am on channel 9GO and [coding@home TV](#) on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11.30am to 12.00pm on 10 Peach. Both of these programs begin this week to further support children in their home-based learning.

Again, it is recognised that some parents of Prep and Year 1, students may still wish to keep their children home from school due to concerns about COVID-19. This is an acceptable decision and your child won't be marked as being absent, rather that they are learning from home. It is important for parents to advise the school of student absence as you would normally do, and discuss any support you may need.



In these cases parents and carers remain responsible for their children. This includes ensuring their children stay at home and continue their learning using the material and websites that can be accessed on the [learning@home](https://www.qld.gov.au/learningathome) website ([qld.gov.au/learningathome](https://www.qld.gov.au/learningathome)).

The decision to return Kindy, Prep, Year 1, Year 11 and Year 12 back to school is an important next step towards returning to our regular school routines and I will continue to update you as soon as any new information becomes available.

Our staff have greatly appreciated all the positive feedback that has been provided to them over the last few weeks. My sincere thanks goes to all parents and carers for your support and understanding during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Barnett

Principal