



# ARMIDALE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL

*'The heart of Armidale'*

QUALITY TEACHING SINCE 1861

PRINCIPAL: Ms Deborah Nay

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last night I received the following update from the Department of Education:

### ***Schools remain open***

*The health advice on schools remains unchanged. Our Chief Medical Officers indicate that our schools should remain open for education provision at this time.*

*The Government and Department are encouraging you to keep your child at home from Tuesday, 24 March to contribute to supporting the community response to COVID-19. The school's doors will remain open for those students whose parents are in the essential services or who are vulnerable.*

*As updated expert information comes to the Department, who are in constant liaison with NSW Health we will keep you informed of any impact on school operations.*

### ***Supporting continuity of learning for all students***

*Our staff have been working hard to develop a suite of learning resources and options for students to undertake from home. The Department has developed and will continue to develop resources and offer professional learning to help teachers with this task.*

*Whether your child is at school or at home, the aim is for all students to access consistent learning content provided by our school. This may mean sending work home, either with physical materials or by email, or by making use of one of our online platforms at our school.*

### ***Support for students at home***

*I encourage you to access the [Learning from Home](#) resource which provides practical advice to parents and carers on how to best create and support a productive learning environment in the home.*

### **What this means for Armidale City Public School**

Our school is open to students where parents are unable to provide supervision themselves, especially those people that provide an essential service. The Premier and Minister of Education have both reiterated this morning the need for parents to keep children at home where they are in a position to do so. Work will be provided in a stage based manner for all children with no differentiation. Similar activities will be supervised at school as will be provided for students at home, with teachers following the framework provided as closely as possible. Regular teaching programs will not be followed for the remainder of term.

As this is a stressful time for students, families and staff, I ask that you don't make completion of work too stressful for our students. Staff can be contacted via the usual phone or email methods and will respond when they can within school hours, which may be up to a few days. Please do not approach classrooms.

Our school will make available hard/paper copies of work tomorrow from 8.40am at the front of the school. Copies will be placed in piles according to Stages. We ask that you only take what you need. A PDF copy of the learning framework and accompanying work sheets for each stage will also be made available via **School Stream** and the **school website**. If you would like work emailed to you, we ask that you provide your email address.

A number of appropriate online options have been provided below for parents who would like more. We will also try to make available a document with of a range of other links that parents may be able to access – some at a cost – at a later date.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/teaching-and-learning-resources/k-6-resources>

<https://www.studyladder.com.au/>

[www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net)

The Peaceful Kids link will be helpful for students and parents in reducing stress through the use of mindfulness activities at this time - <https://www.peacefulkids.com.au/meditations.html>

Mrs McGrath has identified that we are unable to loan books to students at this time. She will provide, when possible, some information that students can access through Oliver.

I ask that our community be considerate of the additional pressure staff will be under in the office as well as in the classrooms. We are trying different ways of getting information and work to families and it may take a while to get everything working smoothly. Staff will respond to you as they can, remembering that there may be an increase in parents wanting information or contact. We will try to provide updates as quickly as possible through School Stream, Facebook and the school website. If you have not uploaded the **School Stream app**, we suggest that you do as this will be the major means of providing information to the school community and the *Blue & White* will also be freely available through this application. Information on downloading the School Stream app can be found at <https://www.schoolstream.com.au/download/>

The most current information available to parents from the Department of Education can be found at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety/novel-coronavirus.html>

Being kind and considerate towards others will help everyone manage this unfortunate situation, whether it is at home, at work or in the community. We are thinking of the number of families suffering at the moment with significant change thrust upon them since Sunday.

Yours sincerely,



Deborah Nay

Principal

24 March, 2020