

Re: PARTIAL SHUTDOWN from Monday 30th March – Thursday 2nd April

Dear Parents,

Over the last couple of weeks as the effects of COVID-19 begin to impact our community, I wanted to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all those gracious parents and students who have emailed, messaged or stopped me in the car park to encourage me as we navigate these unprecedented times. Your inspiring words have sustained me and the Parklands Team as we digest the latest information and face new challenges. I love being part of this community.

Although they have many questions about the immediate future, our students have responded positively to the many new rules by which we are all now living. Amidst this period of frequent change, our kids remain cheery, on task and enjoying life, although I do suspect that many of them are secretly praying that we are shut down soon and given extended holidays. However, I congratulate them all for helping us stay safe and healthy and remaining positive.

As we approach the Easter Break, we would like to wrap up Term 1 in the safest way possible. To this end, we are proposing a **PARTIAL SHUTDOWN from Monday 30th March – Thursday 2nd April**. This means for those parents who can withdraw their children early from school and keep them home, they should do so next week. Alternatively, for those parents who would struggle to keep their children at home, we will be offering supervision through to the official end of term – Thursday 2nd April.

Our staff are currently preparing online resources so our students can continue to learn at home. Families will receive information shortly about this from the Heads of School. However, whilst the teachers can provide an outline of learning that can help you next week, can I encourage us all to be kind to ourselves and approach next week with flexibility in mind. Neither I nor my staff expect parents to facilitate teaching and learning at home next week. Our online resources are available, and may be more useful in the future, but right now everyone needs to have the space to focus on adjusting to our current circumstances. Can I encourage you to engage with your kids and bake, cook, create, keeping a diary, do chores together or writing something to share with your family. By all means have structure, set boundaries on device time, and monitor what they are watching, but have fun and be flexible.

This week is a normal school week, and our teachers are in classrooms teaching students. If your child has exams to complete, we would love them to be at school. Next week we will be in partial shutdown, and parents need to decide what that looks like. If you intend to keep your children at home next week, please email Student Services at studentservices@parklands.qld.edu.au, recording your children's names, and year levels by mid-day Friday 27th March. If we know that you are keeping your children home next week, we **will not** record this as an absence.

As we end the first term of 2020, we are already giving thought to Term 2 and beyond. We intend to be open in Term 2, and be ready to respond to any new challenges that come our way. We are planning with flexibility in mind, and prioritising the continuity of learning, wherever our students may be.



Can I encourage us all to be gracious and generous during this season. Reach out for help when needed, and encourage one another when the challenges seem overwhelming. If we hold together, we can support each other through 2020.

Regards,

Gary Cully
Principal