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Tuesday 24th March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This letter is to update families on how our school is handling the ongoing implications of the COVID-19 virus. With the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday that all Australian schools will remain open, he also stated that parents have the option of keeping their children at home if they wish to do so.

As a school we have already put many processes in place in regard to the COVID-19 virus. These include explicitly teaching hand washing routines and students are washing their hands regularly, all non-essential curriculum activities have been cancelled, increasing the cleaning of the school and putting social distancing measures into place.

In addition to these measures staff have been working on continuing to deliver quality face-to-face teaching, preparing packs of work for families who have chosen to self-isolate and preparing for learning from home, if this is required.

Whilst email is an important form of communication, staff are currently uploading learning programs into 2 online platforms. For students in the Reception, Year 1/2, Year 3 and Year 4/5, the platform is Class Dojo. All students and families should be familiar with Class Dojo as it is already used for communication between home and school. For students in the Year 5/6 class and for students in Years 7-12 the platform to be used is Microsoft Office 365 TEAMS. Students will access TEAMS via their Department for Education Learn link email. Students are being taught how to use this easy to use program. For students who are currently not at school, and for families to assist students, we have attached a step-by-step guide for Microsoft teams.

We are aware that some families do not have internet at home and/or do not have a computer at home. For these students, paper based packs are, and will continue to be provided.

Last week we conducted a survey with students, but to confirm this information and to assist us with our planning, **I ask families to email me (Margaret.Roads954@schools.sa.edu.au) or phone the Front Office (88373025) if you do not have internet and/or a device (computer/laptop/lpad) at home.**

Last week the Education Ministers met and decided that NAPLAN will be cancelled for 2020. This decision was made so that school leaders, teacher and support staff can focus on the wellbeing of students and prepare for the continuity of education, including working online and remote learning options. Importantly, Literacy and Numeracy remain the focus of the teaching and learning programs at AAS.

We appreciate the support we are receiving from families at this time. To further assist us it is important that you do not sent your child/ren to school if they are sick. Please note if your child is unwell during the day, the school will phone to ask you to collect your child.

Maintaining communication with our families is a priority. We will continue to provide updates through letters and email and we will maintain our presence on our school Face Book page. I encourage parents to keep in contact with us.

I am very proud of our students, staff and families. Together, everyone is working very hard to maintain normality for our students. I would like to recognise and thank our staff who are supporting our students and families, teaching students face to face in classes, managing the expectation of providing work for those at home and overall ensuring we are prepared in this unprecedented time.

Whilst I will endeavour to keep you informed at every opportunity, if you do have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the school on 88383025 or email Margaret.Roads954@schools.sa.edu.au

Finally, to our school community, please take care of yourselves and your families. We are resilient and together we will get through this.

Take care,

Margaret Roads
Principal



