

6 April 2020

*Dear Parents and Caregivers,*

*I hope everyone is keeping well.*

*School is a very different place for us at the moment. We are missing everyone and the sights and sounds of our busy students that we would normally have. Our community and the world is also a very different place for all of us. We cannot do the things that we have been used to doing and for the moment we need to work out what our new normal is. As our days and weeks change, we all need to adapt and to do the best we can. That is just what all our staff are doing at the moment at Neerigen Brook PS. We are doing the best we can, preparing work packs and resources for our students.*

*We, like every other Government school must follow the guidelines set by the Government and the Department of Education. The work packs and online resources are being developed by staff ready for Term 2. I know that lots of families are very keen to have work packs and that is great however we are required to keep to the timeframe as outlined. So until those packs arrive, a wonderful thing that your children can do is to keep a journal or diary over this time in our lives. This is a moment in history that we will all look back on in time and reflect on how things changed and what was happening at the time. So while our schools are changing the way they deliver the learning and we are restricted from leaving our homes we are all thinking of creative ways to do the things we like to do and finding ways to keep in touch with the people we care about.*

*Let's record it!*

*Record daily events, feelings, fears and funny moments in your household. Handwrite it, add drawings, add photographs and interesting little bits and pieces from around the home. Cut up old cards, wrapping paper Let all family members add their part. When you are calling relatives and friends, face timing loved ones, interview them. Record the interesting ways your family are creating your new "normal". Make a list of best jokes, worst jokes, vote as a family on different topics and record quotes from family members. If your child loves technology, then make a movie be a part of it.*

*When this is all over, keep it in a safe place for them. They will share it with their children and grandchildren one day. This is a time that we will move on from and will rebuild our lives, schools and communities. Help your child make their own keep sake of family history.*

*Mrs Calabrese, Mrs Christmass and I will be delivering some resources to all of our families next week. This will enable us to work out our timeframe for delivering the work packs next term. We will need to adhere to social distancing rules however make sure you give us a wave! We will be wearing party hats so listen out for our horn as we drop by.*

*Kind regards*



**Lesley Barrett**