

6th April 2020



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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we step into the final week of Term 1 my message this week includes no specific COVID-19 updates. In many ways that is a positive sign in terms of us not having to turn our lives upside-down (again!) and being able to approach the week ahead in a vaguely predictable manner. With some tentatively favourable signs on both a State and Australian level, I know how much more hopeful I am for school life in the foreseeable future than what I was a fortnight ago.

However, we still have the week ahead of us, which will be a breeze for some and a struggle for others. Please be assured that our remote learning trial is just that: a trial. The word *trial* is often partnered with *error*. The two often go hand-in-hand. In the next few days we expect mistakes and would be surprised by perfection. There will be glitches, issues, problems, moments of uncertainty and all of that is fine. These learnings will help us to refine our practice and enable us to better support Encounter students on the other side of the holidays. If and when it's simply not working, please put the device or learning task down and go for a walk, let your kids play outside or enjoy a game of cards or a board game. The welfare of our students and their families comes first and we will deal with dilemmas with grace as we acknowledge the less than perfect scenario we find ourselves in.

Although I won't be standing at the kiss n drop on Wednesday afternoon I will offer you a virtual 'Happy Easter' via Facebook Live (on the College page) at 3pm on Wednesday. It'll be my first ever trial (and error?) so please be patient and gracious if you happen to be on a device around that time. I won't be sitting at my desk, but I will be in one of my favourite spots on the Fleurieu.

If you won't be able to jump online, please accept this brief note as a final farewell for Term 1 and our well wishes for your Easter holiday break. May it be a time of stillness, peace and opportunities to share in those small but significant experiences with those you love.

In signing off, I do want to express again how grateful I am (and on behalf of all staff) for your unwavering support in recent weeks. The days since Sports Day have really been quite extraordinary and having a united, loyal, gracious and kind Encounter Family has made the world of difference in what has been a very unpredictable world. Please know how much we appreciate you.

Blessings for your Easter,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelvin Grivell".

Kelvin Grivell
Principal

Looks like school, feels like home...
encounter.sa.edu.au

