

26 March 2020

Dear parents and carers

We would like to acknowledge that the last few months have been challenging. Having a passion for providing high quality education for students and young children, we empathise with you in regards to the evolving situation. We all want our children and young people to be safe.

Thank you for continuing to support our educators and for ensuring that your children are learning and experiencing normality in what is an extraordinary time.

**Schools are still open**

School will continue as usual next week but parents and families can choose to keep their children home if they wish. The advice of Australia's top health experts is that schools continue to be safe.

**Monday 6 April – 9 April 2020**

From Monday 6 April to Thursday 9 April 2020, teachers will be undertaking professional development days to prepare for the continued delivery of education in Term 2.

From Term 2, we know that teaching and learning will need to occur in a new way with flexible learning arrangements to be delivered to students which are tailored at the school-level and stage of schooling.

Our teachers need time to plan and prepare for this so that the transition to a new way of teaching and learning is more successful for your children.

Students will not be required to attend during this time, however, our schools will remain open for the children of workers who cannot make alternative arrangements and for any vulnerable children who may need to attend. No child will be turned away from school.

**Schedule for Northern Territory Government Schools**

DATE	EDUCATION PROVISION
26 March – 3 April	Learning will be delivered predominantly on school sites and families are welcome to continue to send their child/ren to school. Families may choose to keep their child at home and so far as is practicable, learning at home opportunities will be provided.
6 April – 9 April	Teachers will participate in professional development days to plan and prepare for learning at home in Term 2, 2020.  Schools will remain open for children of essential service workers and for any vulnerable children who may need to attend.
10 - 17 April	Official school holiday break

20 April

Transition to new teaching and learning arrangements in line with advice from health authorities

**Learning at home**

From Tuesday, 24 March, you may choose to support your children to learn at home, due to COVID-19. The Northern Territory Department of Education has created a website for families to use called Northern Territory Learning Commitment. You can access this at <https://nt.gov.au/learning/learning-together/nt-learning-commitment>

This website has resources, learning activities and idea to engage your child.

Thank you for the overwhelming community support directed towards our educators.

Until the 3 April 2020, some teachers will have the capacity to offer take home work. Teachers are still preparing work for their classes as usual so this will not be possible for all. We ask you to please continue to support our teachers, as they are doing their very best in this unprecedented situation.

As parents and carers, you are your child's first and most important teacher. We encourage you to trust your judgement, and help your children to continue to be curious and ask questions as this is essential to learning.

If you need any more information, please speak with your child's school or visit the Department of Education website - [www.education.nt.gov.au](http://www.education.nt.gov.au)

Sincerely



**The Honourable Selena Uibo MLA**

Northern Territory Minister for Education



**Karen Weston**

Chief Executive

NT Department of Education