

Dear Parents and Students,

Our Term 3 will begin next Monday July 19th as planned and it will be our End of Year Concert prep term! We are so excited to jump into concert routines in all of our classes, while our Exam students work hard for their upcoming exams, our Dance Company keep working hard on their eisteddfod routines and our Theatre Company begin their rehearsals for Moana Jr!

However, as the lockdown has now been extended by two weeks, Term 3 will begin in our Virtual Studios. Our full class schedule will jump online with students attending online classes until we can get back to the studio. We did the same in Term 2 last year and recently for our Winter School and it is amazing how easy it is to pivot to virtual learning and keep students engaged and focused while continuing to build their technique and skills.

We encourage you to embrace this way of learning. Our teachers are prepared and ready with lots of experience with online teaching and we know that the students will LOVE being able to stay connected with their dance friends and teachers and continue working on their dancing. It is undoubtedly, the best option in maintaining physical and mental well-being.

The schedule will remain as usual. This includes all weekly classes, Dance Company classes, Theatre Company rehearsals and private lessons (both private dance and private singing lessons) and we will start working on Term 3 content as planned for end of year exams, concerts and shows.

We will send out the timetable with the livestream links for each class/studio later this week. It is very easy to use. This method of learning will be in place until we can be back in the studio where the classes will seamlessly transition back to in-person learning, continuing to work on the content learnt online.

As we know, dance classes in any form are more than just learning technique - they offer community! And right now, during these uncertain times, when the kids aren't able to see their friends, community becomes paramount. Your children will get more from these online classes on a mental and emotional level, more than anything else. But at the same time, we have the skills to keep moving forward with their learning.

Our pivot to online learning ensure that students continue -

1. Physical activity - the NSW department of education has indicated that all stages should be supplementing their at home learning with physical activity for well being. Online classes will ensure students maintain their fitness, technique and skills while maintaining mental health and emotional well being too.
2. A sense of normality and routine - we know that children in particular thrive off routine and structure and look forward to their weekly dance classes.
3. It ensures your child won't fall behind - As we begin work on end of year concert routines, exam preparation, eisteddfod work and our theatre company production of Moana Jr, this pivot to online learning ensures continuity in our class plans for Term 3.
4. They will feel confident returning to in-person classes - Students missing class for an extended period of time can dampen confidence and self esteem. Online learning ensures that when we return, students will feel confident knowing they haven't missed out.

5. It keeps them connected - Dancing is their happy place and The Jazz Factory holds a strong reputation for the community and family feel that runs throughout our school. Every student is valued, special and an important member of our dancing family and the friendships they create in the studio are their own type of special. Online learning will keep them connected and maintaining a sense of belonging while doing what makes them happy - and we need as much joy in our lives as possible right now.

For our PreSchool parents who are concerned about their child's focus online - please rest assured that we work closely with Ready Set Dance HQ in developing an online learning program that keeps students engaged while they continue to develop their skills and confidence while staying connected with their teachers and dance friends. This will help them seamlessly transition back to in-studio classes.

We really hope to have the support of all our wonderful JF families as we navigate these uncertain times together. We feel very fortunate that we are able to pivot online in our industry and our hearts go out to the businesses that have no choice but to keep their doors closed.

I would like to particularly thank those families that have been able to pay their fees this week. Your support for us does not go unnoticed and I am eternally grateful.

Thank you to our entire JF Family, we are unique and we will continue to thrive despite the obstacles that may come our way.

With love

Kim and the JF Team X