



Executive News

A big thank you to all the families who were able to attend parent teacher interviews either virtually or in person last week. We value your input and collaboration as we all work together to provide the very best education for your children. If you were unable to attend but would still like to talk to your child's teacher, please contact us and we will arrange a suitable time.

School Satisfaction Survey



Shortly you will be receiving information and a unique link to the 2020 School Satisfaction and Climate Survey. This will be available online from 10 - 31 August. Staff and Year 4-6 students will also be surveyed. Parents with students in Year 4-6 will receive a letter about the student survey asking whether their child may participate during class time.

We really value your opinions and encourage you to go online and complete the survey. We will use the survey feedback to inform us of what is working well at Theodore Primary and where we can improve.

Kindergarten 'Meat and Greet'

On Wednesday 19 August we will be hosting 2021 Kindergarten Information sessions. One is in the morning starting at 8am and a second BBQ 'Meat and Greet' is in the afternoon starting at 3pm. We encourage all families with students starting Kindergarten to come along. If you know any families who may be thinking about enrolling their children in Kindergarten and live in the area, please encourage them to join us and find out all about what Theodore has to offer.

Reading Café and Hot Reads

Every morning from 9.00am to 9.30am the whole school reads. We call this time 'Hot Reads' as it is an opportunity for students to read for pleasure, practise reading strategies and skills they have learnt at school and for teachers to work closely with individual or small groups of students in the classroom to support or extend their reading skills.



At this time, we also run a 'Reading Café' in the library. This is an intervention program to give students who need a little extra help with reading a chance to work either one on one or in small groups with an adult. The purpose of the Reading Café is to provide students with the skills and strategies to improve their reading and to support them to be able to put these skills and strategies in place as independent readers. Each term we focus on a different year level in the Reading Café to ensure we are being equitable to all students in the school who require this intervention. It is an intense, 5 day a week program that runs for either 5 or 10 weeks depending on the age and needs of the children. Successful intervention programs like this are short term, intense programs to boost independent reading skills. If you are interested in finding out more about the Reading Café or would like to learn some strategies to use at home, please contact the school. Now that COVID restrictions are lifting we also welcome any members of the community to join us and be trained as a volunteer in the Reading Café.

If your child is identified to attend the Reading Café you will receive a letter from the school. We ask that you support us by ensuring your child is at school on time and that you read with them regularly at home. When all of these things combine, our data is showing that students are significantly improving their reading skills and strategies and also becoming more confident and enjoy reading more.

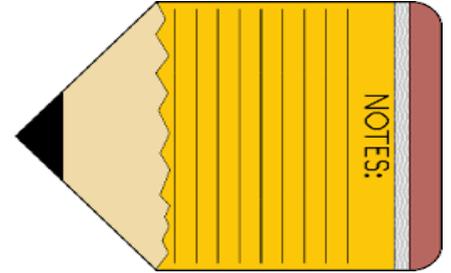
Debbie Martens
Principal



School News

Dates to Remember

- 13 Aug** Year 5/6 Old Parliament House Excursion
- 19 Aug** Kindergarten 2021 'Meat & Greet' Morning Session 8am-9am
Afternoon Session 3pm to 4pm 'Meat & Greet' BBQ provided.
- 28 Aug** Book Week Dress Up Day



Notes sent out

- 4 Aug** 'Meat & Greet' Kindergarten 2021 Preschool Students

Notes to be returned

2020 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey

Each year, the Directorate surveys all parents, school staff and students in Years 4 to 12 about their satisfaction with public education. The 2020 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey will be available online from **10 to 31 August**.

The survey results will help us to continue to make quality informed decisions about how to improve our school. No personal identifying information will be provided to any school or college.

For each child in their family who attends an ACT public school, parents will receive:

- A letter about the **student survey** asking whether their child may participate during class time; and
- An email about the **parent survey**, including a unique link to access the survey; parents who do not receive the email by 10th August may contact EDUSurveys@act.gov.au to request a survey invitation.

A shortened paper-version of the parent survey is also available in the following 12 languages: Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Dari, Dinka, Farsi, Hindi, Karen, Korean, Mon, Urdu and Vietnamese; email EDUSurveys@act.gov.au to request a copy.

For the results to reflect the opinions of our whole school community, we need as many parents, staff and students as possible to complete the survey. Your feedback is important, and we hope you will take part. For more information, visit <https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/school-satisfaction-and-climate-survey> or contact Jess Crilly on 6142 3100.

P&C Uniform Shop



Second-hand uniforms are available by appointment. Please contact the Front Office to be put in touch with Rhonda to organise a time to purchase. Uniform without the school logo are available for \$2 and Logo items and school dresses are \$5.



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Theodore Primary School
(Official Site)



Environment Centre

Hello and welcome to Term 3, we have had a busy start to the term at the Environment Centre.

National Schools Tree day was on 31 July 2020 and National Tree day on Sunday, 2 August 2020. Students have been learning about the importance of trees and plants to the environment and how planting greenery can help minimise our global footprint. We will be celebrated by planting shrubs on Monday. Each class potted a plant supplied through the Fresh Tastes program voucher from Rodney's Nursery in Pialligo. Funnily, as I was buying these plants on the school break, a Theodore Primary family actually walked past and called out hello, as though it had all been rehearsed.



The students and I are keen to get some chickens at school. To have any animals at Theodore Primary School, The Animal Ethics Committee requires extensive documentation and the prerequisite that all students and staff are aware of the ethical requirements for animals in school, i.e. respectful and responsible best practice for their care and needs. In preparation for the approval for chickens at school, students have been learning all about how to look after hens, fixing some wire and fencing to keep the birds from escaping. They have also found out that chickens can be a lot of fun as pets as many students have shared their own stories of chickens at home. Hopefully, we will have some egg layers very soon. I am also looking forward to applying for goldfish and having a go at aquaponics and an axolotl to learn about the various water dwellers, building students' understanding of why our waterways need to be kept clean.



This all leads to our Wastewise program for this term. A group of student representatives have begun to establish a leadership role within the school to promote sustainability across the school. The Earth Savers group will be comprised of the Year 5/6 Ministry for the Environment and 2 students from each class, K-6. These students will meet each week with me to discuss sustainability initiatives they would like to see encouraged at Theodore Primary School. Our first 5/6 meetings have been a success and I am so excited to see the students engaged and

eager to commit to sustainable futures. I am sure their enthusiasm will be very contagious.

To fund some of our programs for sustainability, we have access to monies through the Feed In Tariff (FIT) program. This allows the school to access funds that are derived from the collection of energy from the solar power installation. There are limitations on what the funds can be used for and we have a stringent process that is followed to seek approval for programs, activities and events, ensuring that we continue to improve the sustainability footprint of the school.

Thank you to the Fresh Tastes program and Rodney's Nursery at Pialligo for the generous donations and funding.

We also have had some great parent donations at the beginning of the year (the purple cauliflower is still going!) I am not sure (so many interruptions since) if I formally thanked these in previous newsletters.

Always looking for donations of ingredients for cooking, surplus tools and materials, plants, pots and anything else that you may think might be useful at the Environment Centre.

Thank you also to Aimee Shires as part of the Fresh Taste team and her collaboration to commit to getting programs up and running.

Looking forward to a great term, **Regards, Brita Menzies.**





PE News

This term we are participating in Jump Rope for Heart. The students have been having fun learning to demonstrate different skipping tricks such as the pretzel, criss cross, double jump and backward skipping. They have been skipping in their PE lessons as well as in break times. If you would like to set up a page for your child to participate and fundraise for a great cause, the instructions are below:

Set Up and Share Your Fundraising Page

- Get your parents' help to create your very own online fundraising page by visiting www.jumprope.org.au/parents
- It's super easy and only takes a couple of minutes!
- Ask your family and friends to sponsor you
- Share your fundraising page via Facebook and email to let everyone know you are participating in Jump Rope for Heart



**JUMP ROPE
for HEART**

We are also lucky to have Little Athletics coming to our school this week. Kindergarten through to Year 6 will get to participate in a variety of activities related to Little Athletics in the hall Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

At the end of last term, we were very fortunate to have the Sports Academy run soccer clinics for the whole school. Eric and Danny did a great job at teaching the students a variety of different soccer skills through games on the junior turf. The students really enjoyed the experience.

A big thank you to the families that have linked their rebel membership to Theodore Primary School. When you make a purchase the school benefits and we get to buy more sporting equipment for the students.

Looking forward to a fun and busy term with the students learning different skills and enjoying moving and playing team games and sports.

Tracey Kennedy
PE Teacher



Theodore Primary School
(Official Site)



Fresh Tastes



PART 2: Repeat after me, vegetables are awesome!

If getting your kids to eat vegetables is a struggle in your home, don't worry, you're not alone! Lots of Australian families struggle.

Part of the solution is offering vegetables regularly in as many meals as you can. This helps make vegetables become a normal part of your child's life. When children are familiar with foods and are exposed to them regularly they're more likely to eat those foods.



Quick tips

Always offer vegetables at dinner time no matter what else you're eating

- A basic green salad can accompany any meal: lettuce, cucumber, capsicum, tomato
- Steamed frozen vegetables are handy and convenient and can be incorporated into mixed meals or served as a side dish
- Blanched green beans, snow peas, sugar snap peas, broccolini are all bright green, crunchy and an enjoyable side to many meals.

Offer raw chopped vegetables as snacks after school or over the weekends

- Serve on a platter with chopped fruit and/or dip and let the family nibble across the day.
- Bring chopped vegetable sticks to the park, play centres and for something to munch on while they're in the car on long trips.



Mental Health Services and Support

Beyond Blue

24/7 mental health support service

1300 22 4636
beyondblue.org.au

headspace

Online support and counselling to young people aged 12 to 25

1800 650 890 (9am-1am daily)
For webchat, visit: headspace.org.au/ehedspace

Kids Helpline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services for children and young people aged 5 to 25

1800 55 1800
kidshelpline.com.au

1800RESPECT

24/7 support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence and abuse

1800 737 732
1800respect.org.au

Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services

13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back

24/7 crisis support and counselling service for people affected by suicide

1300 659 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Mensline

24/7 counselling service for men

1300 78 99 78
mensline.org.au

QLife

LGBTI peer support and referral

1800 184 527 (9pm-10pm daily)
qlife.org.au (online chat 9pm-12am daily)

As this year continues to be challenging, please remember there are many services available if you require some extra support.

Aimee Shires
Family & Community Engagement
Coordinator | Theodore Primary School
P: (02) 61423100 M: 0435 512 102
E: aimee.shires@ed.act.edu.au

If you are concerned about someone at risk of immediate harm, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.





The **ARTS**

QUESTION - WHY DO PEOPLE MAKE ART?

Connecting our Arts lessons into the classroom areas of Inquiry is always so much fun!

This term, **Chipala** students are examining the art of **DIFFERENT CULTURES**. Last week, we made Mexican suns and used ribbons and brightly coloured wool to weave patterns. “Over” and “under” became the catch cry of the day as we tried to keep our weaving going.



Yackatoon are the new **HISTORY** buffs, so we thought....why not examine the history of art? Starting with the beginnings of art and the art of the cavemen, we turned our tables upside down to create darkened caves. We lined them with crinkled brown paper and using charcoal, we drew the story of our hunt for food. It wasn't the easiest of tasks. The walls were bumpy, our necks and arms got sore and the charcoal snapped in our grip. By the end, we all agreed that we were happy that we don't have to paint like that anymore.



The following week, we explored the hieroglyphics of Ancient Egypt. We embossed our own hieroglyphic designs into a piece of foam and then printed our creations. Like magic, our designs transferred to our papers.



Mereki are exploring **LIGHT**. Light and shadow both play important roles in telling a story in art, so learning how to represent them is important. We've explored mixing hues of different colours to create lighter and darker tones and have experimented with ways to capture a 'glow' of light within our own artmaking.



Molonglo and **Murrumbidgee** are connecting with our **ASIAN**

NEIGHBOURS. After our research, we decided to create an artwork that detailed the striking blue and white ceramics of the Chinese Ming Dynasty and the contrasting colour of the beautiful cherry blossoms. Mixing our own colours using inks proved to be a fun scientific experiment. A "drop of this" and a "s squirt of that" was a great collaborative process as we mixed the shades we needed.



Kindergarten Health Checks

The ACT Government has announced funding for a targeted Kindergarten Health Check program during 2020. This program has been developed as the physical component of the Kindergarten Health Check was cancelled when schools closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This targeted program will identify and support students who may have problems with their hearing and/or vision.

How do I know if my child should have their hearing and/or vision tested with a targeted Kindergarten Health Check?

Your child doesn't need to have a targeted Kindergarten Health Check if:

- you have completed the 4-year old *before school health assessment* and there were no concerns. You can find details about this health assessment in your child's 'blue book,' and may have been completed with your MACH nurse or your GP
- your child has had their vision and hearing checked in the last year and there were no concerns.

I have concerns about my child's hearing and/or vision, what can I do next?

If you are concerned about your child's **hearing** please make a free appointment at the Children's Hearing Service by phoning Central Health Intake on 5124 9977.

If you are concerned about your child's **vision** please book into a Medicare funded vision check through an Optometrist.

Kindergarten families who have concerns about their child's vision or hearing, and who may experience challenges accessing a GP or other health professional, should access the targeted Kindergarten Health Check clinics by calling Central Health Intake on 5124 9977.

We welcome all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kindergarten students into the targeted Kindergarten Health Check clinic.

What does my child's teacher know about the targeted Kindergarten Health Check?

Your teachers have the same information as you about the targeted Kindergarten Health Check. If your child's teacher has noticed something about your child's vision or hearing they may talk with you about it and recommend you attend the Children's Hearing Service or an Optometrist.

When will the Targeted Kindergarten Health Check clinics start and where are they located?

Clinics will commence in Term 3 and run until the end of Term 4 2020. Clinics will be held in the City Health Centre located on the corner of Moore and Alinga Streets, Civic. If more clinic sites become available, you will be informed of this when you phone to make an appointment.

For more information about the targeted Kindergarten Health Check program call 5124 1678 or email KindergartenHealthCheck@act.gov.au

ACCESSIBILITY

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

For further accessibility information, visit: www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility

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Internet filtering change

What is happening:

Currently the Education Directorate filters the internet when a student is using their Chromebooks at school using the internet connection. We are extending this coverage to include all non-school based internet connections. This will enhance student safety when online studying at home. The extension will apply to Education Directorate supplied Chromebooks and personally owned Chromebooks when they are logged in using Education login credentials.

Why are we doing this now?

To promote student eSafety and provide a safer learning environment for students irrespective of the location that they are learning from.

As a result of the exponential increase in students moving to home-based internet connections during the COVID-19 pandemic the Education Directorate is enhancing the safety of the learning environment of students when using their Chromebooks and Education login credentials outside of the school.

When is this happening:

Starting from week 3 Term 3 (Tuesday 4 August 2020).

How will this update happen: The update will occur via a student's Education login credentials whether on their Directorate supplied Chromebook or when logged-in to their personally owned Chromebook. Should there be a requirement to use an unfiltered internet connection on a personally owned Chromebook then the user will need to sign out of their child's Education login credentials and sign-in with a personal login (e.g. a Gmail account).

Do I need to do anything?

No action is required by parents/guardians around the extension update. However as always, we encourage parents/guardians to remain vigilant around their children's online activity.

FAQs:

Why are we doing this now?

As a result of the exponential increase in students moving to home-based internet connections during the COVID-19 pandemic the Education Directorate is enhancing the safety of the learning environment to students when using their Chromebooks and Education login credentials outside of the school.

Before implementation of this internet filtering extension a student's internet access outside of school remained the sole responsibility of parents with no supporting functionality for internet filtering provided. This extension was planned but given the exponential increase in online learning at home caused by the COVID-19 pandemic this initiative has been fast tracked to support parents/guardians in keeping their children safe when online.

Why are you filtering personally owned Chromebooks that are not supplied by the Directorate?

In some instances, a personally owned Chromebook may have its internet connection filtered if it is being used with an Education user login. The Directorate must protect the integrity of data when a student is using their Education provided login credentials. Should students or families wish to have an unfiltered internet connection on their personally owned Chromebook then they will need to sign out of their Education account and login using a personal account (e.g. a Gmail account). Please see the attached guide on *Web filtering on a personally owned Chromebook*.

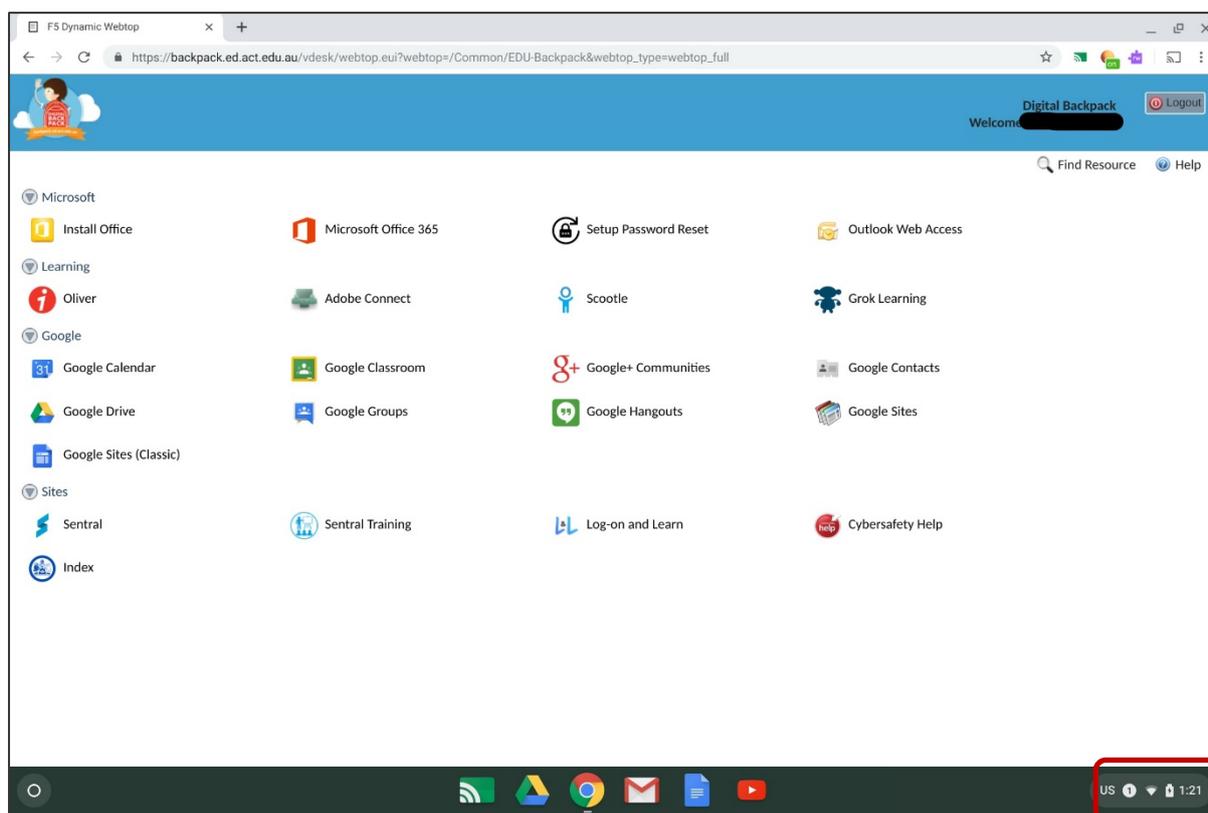
What happens if a parent/guardian/family member/friend uses a student's Chromebook to access inappropriate content?

All parents and students signed the acceptable terms of use agreement upon receipt of a Chromebook and are expected to uphold the conditions outlined in that agreement. Access to inappropriate content will be flagged with the system administrator in the same way it currently is when a SchoolsNET connection is being used.

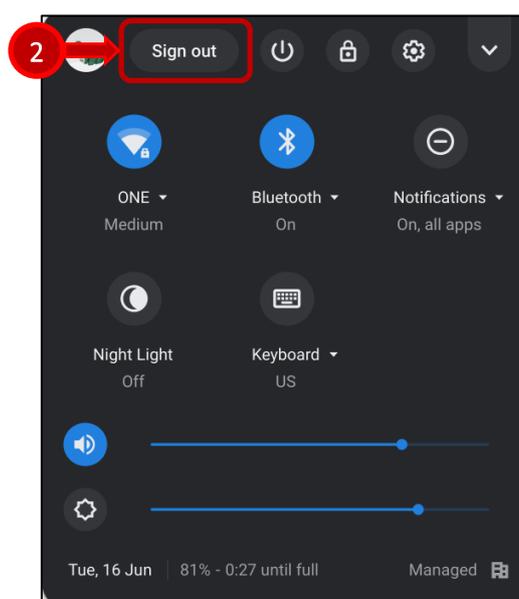
Web filtering on a personally owned Chromebook

Web filtering on a personally owned Chromebook is only enforced when Education login credentials are used. Should parents/students wish to have an unfiltered internet connection when using a personally owned Chromebook all they need do is sign into the Chromebook using their personal login credentials. Please see below for steps to do that:

1. Click the **menu item** on the **bottom right-hand** corner of the Chromebook home screen:

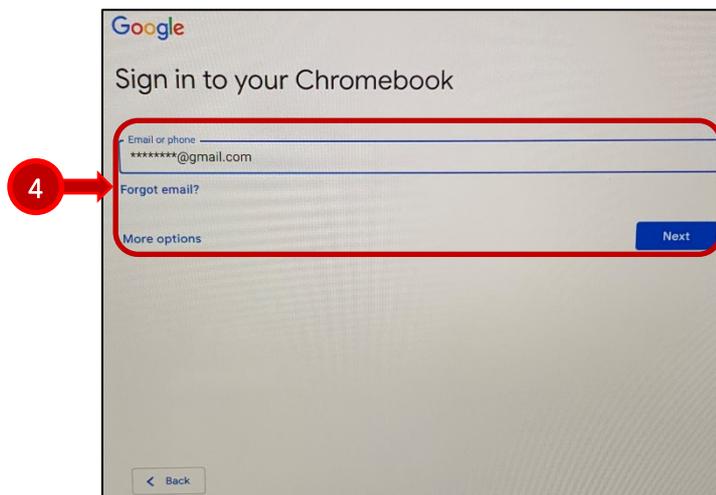
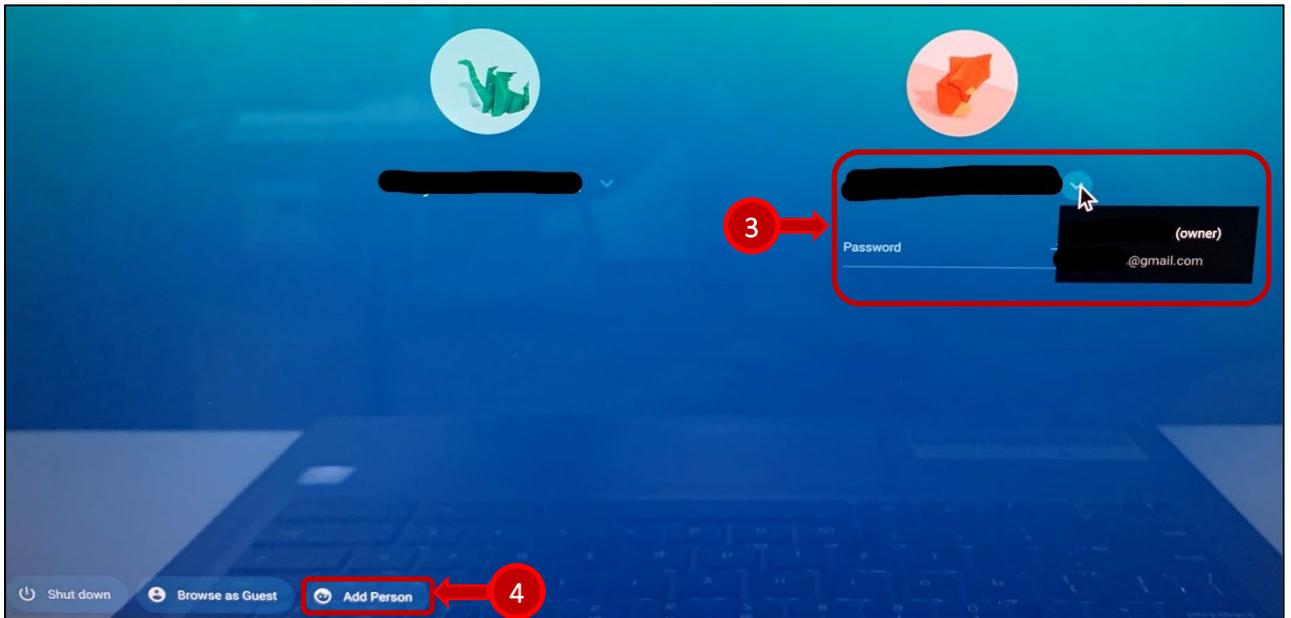


2. Select **Sign Out** from the menu:



3. Once on the initial user sign-in page either select a **non-Education login** (e.g. @gmail.com) from the list, if you have previously used the Chromebook with a non-Education login; or

4. Select **Add Person** and enter your **non-Education login** credentials





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* many Centrelink payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.

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