



Dear Parents

Yesterday the Victorian Government, with the support of the Chief Health Officer, announced the bringing forward of school holidays in Victoria, commencing from Tuesday 24 March.

This is obviously an unprecedented step in response to unprecedented circumstances. I greatly appreciate your support as we navigate our way through these challenging times.

Below sets out the arrangements, as per the latest Government guidelines, for the rest of this week and looks ahead to the first week of Term 2.

**Care and Supervision** During this week, the school will provide care and supervision programs for primary school students who are the children (or under the care) of essential services workers, where those families choose to send their children to school.

Examples of essential services may include health, police, corrections and emergency services workers.

The school will also provide a program of care and support this week for vulnerable children (eg. out of home care). If any parent feels they need support, please contact the school to discuss options and assistance.

**Learning At Home** Teachers are currently preparing 'Learning At Home' units that will be available in term 2 if the need arises due to forced school closures. These units will be sent out to parents (students) via the Compass portal and will also be uploaded and available on the school website.

Schools have been directed not to make these units of flexible and remote learning available until Wednesday 15 April (beginning of term 2) and only if they are required due to the school closing.

The school will then send out a new unit of work, each week until the school re-opens.

Parents (students) will also be able to contact their child's teacher with questions or queries using the school email.

Apart from the Yr. 5/ 6 studies, the majority of the set 'Learning at Home' program will not require a computer or online interaction. If a student does not have access to a computer or internet, the activity would be optional and they would not be required to complete that task.

Those students that attend school today will take home their personal belongings and a workbook to complete the 'Learning at Home' studies. If your child is absent today, parents will need to purchase or supply a workbook and pencils for their child to undertake this work whilst at home. Alternatively, they can call into school this week and collect the required items.

The Yr. 5/ 6 students will continue to use their ipads for their studies at home. The school will supply a device to any Yr. 5/ 6 student without an ipad to use at home during this time.

If students require tasks for this week I refer you to an earlier parent information update '*I would recommend that the students keep up with their reading, keep a diary of their days at home, write letters to friends and family and play educational games such as Chess, Scrabble, Boggle, Snakes & Ladders etc. There are also resources (activity and study books) available from stores such as Officeworks that have activities that can assist the child with learning activities whilst they are at home*'.

### **Start Term 2**

**Staff return:** Tuesday 14 April, pupil free day

**Students return:** Wednesday 15 April

Victorian Chief Health Officer (CHO) will advise on whether the transition to flexible and remote learning and support should commence on the first student day of Term 2 (Wednesday 15 April) closer to that date.

When this advice is given to schools, I will send out an update to all parents via Compass.

I would like to sincerely thank the Newport Lakes Primary School Community for all the support and acknowledgments you have given to the staff and myself during this very difficult time.

It has been over-whelming and once again demonstrates why NLPS is such an excellent school.

I will continue to keep you updated as any further information becomes available.

Regards

David Moss  
Principal