



March 27<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Parents,

After an excellent start to the 2020 school year with children in all classes settling into a robust year of learning, I have never experienced anything in schools like we have in the last 3 weeks. In addition, it seems highly likely the next term will also be a new and uncharted landscape for us all.

These are exceptional times and we must all do the best we can to support our friends, colleagues, neighbours, those in special need and especially our families.

I will endeavour to keep you updated to the best of my ability on how the school will operate and how we can best address your child's student welfare and learning needs during these very difficult times.

At this present time, we are unsure of what will be arrangements for school for next term. It has been confirmed that it will a pupil free day on the first day of term 2 (Tuesday 14th April) but it is still uncertain what will happen after this date. As we move closer to this time, the Victorian Government and Education Department will inform Principals of the school operations from Wednesday 15th April onwards. As soon as these arrangements are confirmed, I will issue a parent update on Compass informing all families of the arrangements for students at Newport Lakes Primary School.

At this time, the official wording from the department is the following;  
'All students will be expected to attend school from the start of Term 2 on Wednesday 15 April, which may be by remote and flexible learning arrangements.'

#### Remote and Flexible Learning (Learning At Home)

In the case that schools are closed the school leadership team and the teachers have all been working towards the development of a 'Learning At Home' program for all students P-Yr.6.

Further information in regards to the 'Learning At Home' program will be sent to all parents via Compass prior to the beginning of term 2.

The following guidelines have been given to schools when developing programs for students across all year levels:

- students and parents/families should be given clear information about how and when they will receive learning materials and feedback
- teachers should together create and communicate a schedule or calendar that shows what's expected of students: what students will be asked to do, approximately how long it will take, and when they should aim to complete the task
- schools should avoid overwhelming students by giving them too many learning activities at once. Generally, no more than a week's activities should be provided at any one time.

We are continually meeting with our teachers via conference calls in the development of these programs. There is no doubt that it will be difficult, and it is likely that mistakes will be made, especially in the initial process but we must endeavour to work together, be patient, be calm and strive towards doing the very best for our students in these challenging times.

#### Farewell

At the end of each term we often farewell a number of children at school assembly that depart to different schools in different cities, states and even different countries. Unfortunately due to the term ending unexpectedly we were unable to farewell these children and we are still are not able to confirm that families were able to re-locate due to travel restrictions.

If you are departing we wish you all the very best on your travels and hoping that all goes well in your school. If you are ever re-visiting the area, you know that you will always be a member of our Newport Lakes Primary School family and cordially invite you to visit us if you can.

#### Vacation Care

The school's vacation care program will be in operation over the upcoming school holiday period for any families requiring this service.

For further information on Vacation Care please contact Quantin Binnah (service operators) direct on 9742 5040.

I hope you get the opportunity of some quality time with your family over the Easter break and all being well, we will get to see all of our families in the near future.

Regards

David Moss