



Dear Parents,

School Resumption- Over the week-end there was considerable discussion in the media that school's were safe to re-open.

State schools are governed by the state government and the official message for Victorian schools remains as **'all students that can learn from home must learn from home.'**

This message has not changed since the beginning of term and will remain in place until the Premier and the Minister of Education, under the guidance of Victoria's Chief Health Officer, advises schools differently.

We realise and understand that having schools closed is very difficult for us all and there is no group of people more keen to return to school than the staff of Newport Lakes Primary School but we must remain stoic in our battle against the COVID virus and be guided by our state leaders to protect the health of **all** Victorians.

When schools are advised of any changes to the current arrangements, I will inform and update all parents as soon as it is practical via Compass.

Changes to *Learning at Home* Program - Students and parents would have noticed that there has been a slight change in how most of the Week 3 *Learning at Home* programs are planned this week. Considerable feedback from parents indicated a daily plan would be preferred rather than planner set out in subject areas eg. Monday, Tuesday etc. rather than having maths with 4 activities to choose from.

Please note that changes to a daily routine are suggested only and your child may complete them on different days if they prefer. Similar to all the work in the *Learning at Home* programs we ask parents and students to complete what you can to the best of your ability.

If ever the work becomes too difficult then just leave it – the task is never

that important it should create disharmony in the household. The work in the programs is certainly valued, but never to the extent that it creates relationship problems within the family.

There will be no 'black marks' or criticisms if the work is not completed by any of the students. We ask students and families to complete what they can to the best of their ability and maintaining a good and healthy family relationship throughout the studies must be the first priority.

At this difficult time we are facing, we value all learning that students undertake, especially life learning and practical tasks such as cooking, construction, social play, exercise, house chores, strategy games, etc. You may also wish to check out what the ABC TV may be showing on their education channel. If the work in the *Learning at Home* Program is not productive then we suggest that you change your child's program to something that may be a little more appealing and engaging and a little less stressful for the family.

Child Care Available : Many parents have expressed a need to send their child to school as they are unable to complete their own work at home with the children present. Unfortunately, this is not an option available at our school for this purpose.

The on-site supervision program is only available to children on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made.

The program is strictly only available for children of parents who cannot work from home, essential service employees when they are working and vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

An alternative service available which may assist these busy parents and all of our families is the before and after school childcare. Hours of operation is from 6.30am- 8.45am and then in the afternoons from 3.30pm- 6.00pm giving a total of **4 ¾ hours of supervision** everyday at NO COST. Parents can drop off their children, undertake their required work from home and then pick them up at the conclusion of the program. The times and split service may not be the best option but these are difficult times and we are all learning to be much more flexible in our daily work lives.

This is presently a free service funded by the federal government and there are ample placements in both before and after school care.

The children are able to socially engage with friends, receive either breakfast or an afternoon snack and are safely supervised allowing parents time to undertake events and actions they are presently finding it difficult to

do with the children being at home all day.

It could even be an opportunity of having a bit of down time or a change of scenery for both parents and children making it better for everyone during the day.

If requiring further information or if interested in booking your child into either before or after care, or both please contact the provider , Quantin Binnah direct on [9742 5040](tel:97425040).

Regards

David Moss
Principal