



Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning. Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has advised that schools, including **Newport Lakes Primary School** can begin a phased return to on-site schooling.

In the **first stage**, students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2 will return to school from **Tuesday 26 May**. To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, Monday 25 May will be a pupil-free day. In the **second stage** of our return to on-site schooling, all other year levels (Grades 3-6) will return to school from **Tuesday 9 June**.

For those students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of on-site schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June.

The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which on-site schooling is required will continue for this two-week period.

All other students in these grades and year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to on-site schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan.

This same approach is being taken by all government schools in Victoria.

To support the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent hand washing.

If you child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice made to all schools. These include, but not limited to;

- adjusted arrangements for drop off and pick up, including staggered school start and finish times;
- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students;
- the way we conduct parent-teacher meetings and interviews
- restrictions to assemblies, incursions, excursions, etc

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom.

Further and more detailed information will be sent to parents when this becomes available.

Yours sincerely,

David Moss
PRINCIPAL