



# CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 Update

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

As would be expected in unprecedented times, things are changing quickly and often.

As I mentioned last night, the Premier of Victoria has closed schools from tomorrow 24<sup>th</sup> March, and classified it as an extension of the school holidays. This means we are closed from tomorrow until Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April. (Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> is classified as a Curriculum Planning Day for teachers to prepare work for students online.)

As this is very short notice, it has been decided by the Department of Education and Training that if you are an “Essential Services Worker” (ie Nurses, Doctors, Police, Fire), your children will be catered for at school this week during school hours. I will have 30% of my staff here with me at school for the remainder of this if your employment is classified in that job category. Please let me know ASAP if you will need this supervision, via the School Mobile SMS – 0418366286.

We have been instructed that it is “School Vacation” from tomorrow, so no extra work for students need be provided, but may be if available. Many grades have Project work and Maths Tasks, and some teachers have sent home ideas for you to do with your children or they can do them online. These are to help out over the extra-long vacation period only.

During the Vacation Break, any new information will be sent to via Skoolbag, be loaded onto the website, or posted onto the school Facebook Page. Please keep an eye out for these notifications. If you need to load Skoolbag onto your smartphone, instructions are on our website. PLEASE only base your information from official sources; while Social Media has certainly opened up the world, it has allowed the free flow of opinion and “they said” style information to get loose as well.

If during the vacation break the Government decides that for the health and safety of all, school does not resume on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, I will have notified you as early as I am told – I received last night’s official notification at 10.30pm, and more details by phone this morning on the way to school, as it became available.

In the event that school does not re-commence on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, to ensure we keep some continuity up with your child’s/ren’s education, activity booklets will be loaded onto our website. You will be able to go to the website and download a booklet for your child’s grade, and children will be able to complete tasks they would normally complete at school. Some booklets will be for certain groups in a grade, your child will be aware of their group. There will be explanations where needed, and many will have online links to further activity. Where possible, some staff may provide links to Youtube clips of them teaching a skill. If your child does not understand a task, leave it, or send me an email at school and I will sort out some help. ([doreen.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:doreen.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)) We will ask you to keep each week’s workbook, and teachers will collect them when children return to school. If there is a prolonged break, I will arrange drop-offs at school to get the activity books in for correction and evaluation.

Some Families may not have access to printers or perhaps even the internet. If this is the case, let me know via SMS on the school mobile – 0418366286 – or the school email ([doreen.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:doreen.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)), and I will arrange hard copies to be at school to be picked up.

There will be someone at school all week, so if you are not sure about something, please call. We had a Facilities Masterplan meeting scheduled for tonight, but I will postpone that until next term. Our School Council AGM and March Meeting is scheduled for Thursday Night at 7.30pm. I will still try and do that if we get enough for a quorum, as the Annual Report for 2019 needs to be tabled and presented. It is a report that shows fantastic Student results, so when you get a copy, please have a read. It will eventually go on the website.

We are living through challenging times. If we work as a community to get through them, the best outcomes will occur. Staying calm, following medical advice, being a role model for your children, and remembering it will pass will ensure it has the lowest impact it can on us, and importantly the children in our care. We will learn many things about this sort of threat, so will be better prepared for any future pandemics.