



Newsletter / 26 March

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In our staff reflection on Term 1 we all commented on how happy and calm the students have been in their learning. Each class has been able to work through significant amounts of learning, due in part to the small class, and also due to the focus children have brought to their learning this term. Each teacher commented on how they have been able to spend significant time with each child to support their learning. We hope you have found the last few days a wonderful time to spend with your child/children as they continue with their learning. We have continued to work on our preparations for next term and we have all commented about how we miss the presence of the children...they are what make schools such wonderful places to work.

Term 2, 2020

At this point in time we will begin Term 2 with a staff day on Tuesday 14 April. **Students will return to school on Wednesday 15 April.**

We are continuing to follow the advice of the Victorian Government, the Chief Medical Officer and CEM and will look to what will happen in the next two weeks. I would continue to advise that you monitor the DET and DHHS sites, and related official government sites. The cleaners are completing a thorough clean of all surfaces, handles and their usual cleaning over the next two weeks.

We have been busy making two plans for next term:

Plan A will be classes as usual with a full delivery of learning and support across the curriculum. We will continue with all our hygiene control measures with this Plan as well. In the first few weeks we have some wonderful incursions organised with a Construction with Planks workshop on Friday 17 April as part of our STEM curriculum offerings. There will be a visit by the local Police education officer on Monday 20 April including the opportunity to 'get inside a police car'. We will have an ANZAC liturgy on 24 April to remember those who have engaged with war. Reconciliation begins in late April with the Faith night on 29 April and the Sacrament of Reconciliation on 21 May. Other plans, not yet finalised, will be the launch of our kitchen garden; learning with robotics; a visit from the Fire Brigade; cooking as part of the maths program; an excursion to nearby Indigenous sites; PE focus on Hockey; an AFL day; ongoing preparation for Shrek; Italian poetry recitation; and recycling investigation for the Juniors.

Plan B – as a back-up plan - will focus on delivery of learning at home. This will only happen IF the Premier of Victoria continues with the closure of schools – we await official notification before proceeding with this Plan. We want to ensure that 'continuity of learning' is maintained so your role is very important here. Hopefully you have been able to establish a routine with each day that includes some reading, writing and maths. We will send some more comprehensive ideas and structure should this Plan become operational. We will have a suggested timetable; a regular resources pack for collection at the school office; access to more online and paper resources for children; a procedure for

online meetings that allow for face to face opportunities from the comfort and security of home – all to support your role as the person facilitating their learning.

Our key objective with whatever happens is to create learning opportunities that expand the horizons of each child. If you have a deck of cards or Lego or a sandpit or board games at home, please encourage your child to engage with these things as well. There is learning opportunities with all these items. Try to limit screen time to a certain amount of time each day.

COVID19 Resources

For the latest updates please go to the Department of Education and Training website : <https://education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx> The Department of Education has some useful advice about **Learning from Home:** <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning.aspx>.

You might want to make use of the BTN (*Behind The News*) program for older children. They have a special program that explains much of what is happening with respect to COVID19 at a level that is accessible for middle and senior children. It is available on iView or here: <https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/episode-19/10542642> . Each segment of the program can be viewed and then you can discuss with your child about its content.

Easter

Easter will be a very different experience for all of us with no possibility of gathering together to celebrate the events of the death and resurrection of Jesus. You might want to access the resources on the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne website where they have developed brief liturgies for home and are being released for each week of Lent: <https://www.cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19>

You could include this prayer from Ireland, especially crafted for this time:

*Loving God,
we place into your care
all our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers.
Give them courage of heart and strength of mind and body.
Keep them safe from harm.
May they know our deep gratitude for all they are doing
to heal and help those affected by the coronavirus.
God of all consolation
may they know your protection and peace.
Bless them in these challenging days and bless their families.
Amen.*

My intention is to make contact via email with you in the days before Easter – I imagine we will know what is going to happen in the following week – which would normally be the first week of Term 2. Until then, we hope you enjoy this Easter break and continue to pray for each other's ongoing good health and mental well-being.

Blessings



Ms Caroline Sheehan
Acting Principal