

THIS LETTER CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS AND CARERS

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning. It has been challenging time for all.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has advised that schools can begin a phased return to on-site schooling.

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition:

Monday 25 May will be a pupil-free day.

Echuca Holiday and After School Care Program will operate on this day. Bookings are essential as places are limited. Please call 5482 4503 to book or for more information.

At Echuca East, the first stage, students in **Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2** will return to school from **Tuesday 26 May**.

In the second stage of our return to on-site schooling, **all other year levels** will return to school from **Tuesday 9 June**. Students in years 3-6 will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

Once your child's year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school. *DET has stated 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.

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

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. This will apply until further notice, (hopefully only until the end of term 2).

Changes will include processes to minimise congestion:

At the beginning of the day:

- All students commence at 8:45am.
- There will be no access to the school prior to 8:30am.
- All students will be temperature checked and hands sanitised.
- We encourage parents to stay in their car when dropping off their children.
- **Parents are not able to come onto the school grounds.**
(Restrictions are in place for access to all school sites for anyone other than immediate school staff and students)
- Prep students will enter via their playground gate in Sutton St.
- Year 1 & 2 students will enter via the Eyre St main entrance.
- Years 3-6 students, advice will follow shortly.

At the end of the day:

- Staggered dismissal of students will occur.
- **Parents are not able to come onto the school grounds.**
- Students who **ride, scoot or walk** home, will be dismissed at **3:00pm**
- Students who are picked up by **After School Care**, will be dismissed at **3.00pm**
- Students with surnames beginning with **A-G** will be dismissed at **3:05pm** and will exit via the Arts Centre exit.
- Students with surnames beginning with **H-M** will be dismissed at **3:10pm** and can be collected at the back of the oval.
- Students with surnames beginning with **O-Z** will be dismissed at **3:15pm** and will exit via the Eyre St gate.
- Bus travellers will be dismissed at 3:15pm.
- Staff will be at the major exit points to supervise the students leaving the school grounds.

We will give further advice regarding the return of our year 3-6 students in the coming weeks. If you require your 3-6 child to attend school onsite any days/part days next week, you will still be required to submit an Attendance Application form by 12noon on Friday.

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.

Yours sincerely,



Lyn Strachan
PRINCIPAL