

14. Holiday Update #2 Remote Learning

Dear Families,

As many may be aware, the Premier and Minister for Education made an announcement on Tuesday in regard to Term 2 schooling arrangements. To increase physical distancing across the population and slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), children in Victorian schools will move to remote and flexible learning and care at the commencement of Term 2. **This means that all students who can learn from home must learn at home from Wednesday 15th April.** An email will follow in the coming days outlining the school's delivery of a remote learning plan.

We acknowledge that this remains a particularly challenging time for our communities and strongly encourage our families to support and reinforce these expectations in the interests of all. Our staff at St. Joseph's continue to prepare and are confident that our educational response to these arrangements will be well received, and we will provide greater assurance to our families in the coming days, as we look to formally roll out the remote learning program. With your support, our priority will be to maintain the learning continuity of all children at St. Joseph's.

FROM START OF TERM 2, 2020

- **Tuesday 14th** - Student Free Day (School not open to students)
- **Wednesday 15th** - Students commence 'remote' learning program

The following operating model will apply to all schools:

1. ALL STUDENTS WILL BE LEARNING FROM HOME, EXCEPT FOR STUDENTS IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- Children on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. This will be available for children of parents who cannot work from home, and vulnerable children, including:
 - children in out-of-home care
 - children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm
 - children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service or mental health or other health service and children with a disability).
- Parents will need to contact the Principal to confirm these arrangements to assist with staffing and social distancing guidelines **by Tuesday 14th April.**

2. ON-SITE PROVISION:

- On-site provision will be available at all schools, but only for students in the categories listed above, for the purpose of providing continuity of teaching, learning and support.
- When on-site learning is provided, hand sanitiser will be available at the entry points to classrooms and education will be provided on hand hygiene. Physical distancing will be implemented in classrooms to the extent feasible and unwell students will be excluded from attending.
- The learning program delivered on-site **will be the same** as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning. Students learning on-site will be supervised by an on-site teacher but follow the teaching and learning program provided by their classroom teacher.
- Class sizes must be no more than a ratio of 1:10.
- To ensure consistency with physical distancing measures, students and families will not be permitted to congregate at the school gate before or after school and will be required to



maintain 1.5 metres between persons as far as is practicable on entering and leaving the school grounds.

3. HOME PROVISION

- The parent or carer is responsible for students' general safety at home or elsewhere.
- Students and parents/families will be given clear information about how and when they will receive learning materials and feedback.
- Schools will create and communicate a schedule or calendar that shows what is expected of students in relation to the completion of learning tasks.

4. HOME AND ON-SITE LEARNING PROGRAMS

- The learning program delivered on-site will be the same as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning.
- The following are the daily minimum guidelines schools are expected to meet:
 - For students in Prep to Grade 2, schools will provide learning programs that include the following:
 - Literacy activities that take a total of about 45-60 minutes
 - Numeracy activities of about 30-45 minutes
 - Additional learning areas, play-based learning and physical activity of about 30-45 minutes.
 - For students in Grades 3 to 6, schools will provide learning programs allocated as follows:
 - Literacy: 45-60 minutes
 - Numeracy: 30-45 minutes
 - Physical activities: 30 minutes
 - Additional curriculum areas: 90 minutes

5. ACCESS TO TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AT HOME

- For students who do not have access to digital technologies at home, schools will loan existing devices.
- Schools will also be able to provide hard copies of learning resources in the event of an internet outage or in cases where it is not possible for students to have any digital access.
- Schools will follow e-safety policies and procedures.

There is a lot we are going to learn over this term: some of it learned through things that go well, others through things that don't work quite the way we intended. Both will be important sources of learning. In the coming days as you digest this news, we again ask for your patience, unwavering support and understanding as our school community transitions to this uncharted landscape.

In the meantime, please be assured, the care, wellbeing, commitment and dedication of our staff towards the students and families will remain our highest priority.

Warmest regards,

Simon, Sarah, Claire and Bek