



Friday 20th March, 2020

Update – COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We write to update you about our school's response to the impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Please note that to date, we have **no** reported cases of COVID-19 in either staff or students and we continue to follow the daily guidance given by the Department of Education.

Some of the measures we have put into place to manage the situation continue to include:

- Continuing to review and reinforce increased hand and personal hygiene with both staff and students.
- Continue the management of coughs and sneezes with staff and students.
- Twice-daily cross infection of the entire school by cleaning staff and classroom staff.
- Distribution of information and guidance of the management of the COVID-19.
- Meredith, our school nurse, continues to visit classrooms to review their practises and the availability of hygiene products. She continues to provide first aid and medical assistance where required.

Our current focus is to:

- Continue to minimise the spread of COVID-19 in our school and community.
- Reassure and support students, parents and caregivers.
- Minimise the impact of any change to student learning.
- Prepare students, staff, parents and caregivers for the possibility of remote schooling, in cases where students are unable to attend school.

In the event of a school closure we would like to reassure families that a remote learning platform will be available and work will be sent home with all students'. Further information regarding this will be provided to families should it be required.

Our school still remains open at this time. At present, the directive from both the state and federal governments is that the best place for students to learn is at school. The exception to this is where students are being kept out of school due to self-isolation requirements or based on medical advice.

We continue to acknowledge that we have some medically vulnerable students at our school. These students and their families may be concerned by the potential risk that COVID-19 poses to their health and may decide to keep their child home. We approve this measure and ask that you let the school know if you decide to do this.

Our school community continues to be very respectful of managing illness, and we continue to encourage all students and staff who are experiencing cold and Flu like symptoms to remain home and we would like to thank the school community for their diligence.

We continue to have the following measures in place:

- Talking to students about their expressed concerns about the COVID-19 and how it may impact them as an individual, their families and their friends.
- Keeping families updated of developments and advice from the Department of Education.
- Cancellation of all camps and excursions including community access programs.
- Cancellation of all staff Professional Development external to the school.
- Cancellation of non-essential visitors to the school.
- Cancellation of staff undertaking non-essential external visits.

Where possible, the school will reschedule activities that have been cancelled to later in the school year. While students have been disappointed by cancellations, they have been pleasingly understanding and supportive.

While there is now a ban on non-essential indoor gatherings of 100 people or more, please note that this ban does not apply to schools. Australians are still advised to stay away from non-essential outdoor gatherings of 500 or more. All school assemblies are cancelled until further notice.

If you or child have been overseas and have returned to Australia, you will now be required to self-isolate for 14 days. This applies to all travellers, including Australian citizens. Further information regarding travel can be found at:

www.smarttraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/coronavirus-covid-19

For further information regarding COVID-19, there is helpful information at:

<https://www.health.gov.au/> <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

If you remain concerned, please call the Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours)

Finally, we encourage families to discuss the current situation with their children and help them to understand the facts, good practises and address any concerns they may have. In today's update we have also attached a child friendly story about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) passed on to us from our colleagues. Many students have listened to this story today.

We would like to say thank you to all of our wonderful community both at school and externally who have continued to be supportive and reassuring in these uncertain times.

If your family is facing particular difficulties during this period, or if you have any queries about the school's response, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 5623 1385.

Kind regards,

Matthew Hyde
Principal

Alesha Marshall
Assistant Principal