



Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of May, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all the support and understanding you have shown our school community over the last few weeks. Your commitment to your child's education and your flexibility to support your child in remote and flexible learning has been appreciated.

Following advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has announced that students, teachers and support staff will return to face-to-face teaching. This will see students across Victoria return to school on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. In most instances this will be a staged return, with students in Prep to 2 and years 11 to 12 returning first. As part of the staged return, all Special Schools will reopen to all students regardless of age on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of May. This includes Warragul & District Specialist School.

To facilitate the reopening of schools, Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> has been declared a curriculum day. We will use this day to finalise details to welcome back students.

We have been working hard to ensure your child's return to school goes as smooth as possible.

One of our major considerations is the health and safety of all members of our school community. We are currently reviewing and strengthening our OHS procedures that are used to prevent the spread of germs and viruses. These measures will be reviewed and discussed with all staff and with the students. It is important that we follow these procedures to keep everyone safe. We are very lucky to have well established OHS procedures already in the school. Over recent weeks the Education Department has also provided us with a range of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to supplement our own supplies. Our school will also continue an enhanced cleaning routine including frequent cross infection cleans carried out by the school cleaning contractor. The cleaning of the classroom and school is also boosted by our ES staff on a frequent basis.

Please be aware that if you or your child show signs of illness please do not attend the school. This is crucial to keep people safe. This message will be emphasised with staff, students and families, with everyone

expected to stay home and seek medical advice if they show signs of illness. We are very fortunate to have our nurse Meredith to support us in this area. Students who are unwell will be supervised in the first aid room until parents are able to collect them.

We are making minor adjustments to the running of the school day to reduce the numbers of adults and students congregating together. This will result in some minor adjustments for parents who drop and pick up their child from school. We will provide you with more information as we finalise the pickup/ drop off schedule.

As a consequence of students returning to face to face instruction at school, remote and flexible learning will cease the week of May 25<sup>th</sup>. The remote and flexible learning model has left us with some fantastic resources and processes that we can still use into the future. Well done to everyone for their success in this area.

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 everyone for the tremendous effort you have put into making the last few months successful. We have all learned a lot and developed a variety of skills that will only enhance your child's education into the future.

On a last note please be aware that whilst Victoria should be very proud of our efforts to contain the spread of the virus, with the lessening of restrictions, the threat of exposure increases. It is up to us to adhere to and follow the advice of the government and Education Department to maintain our own safety and the safety of our school community.

Regards,

Matt, Alesha and the Leadership Team