



April 7th, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all staying happy, safe and healthy out there. I also hope the holidays, although very different, are being kind to you and your family. Below is some very important information regarding the beginning of Term 2, which I urge every single parent to read.

Today, the Victorian Premier and the Victorian Minister for Education announced that, on the advice of the Chief Health Officer, schools will transition to remote and flexible learning arrangements for Term 2, beginning Wednesday April 15th. This means the vast majority of students will undertake their learning from home.

“If you can learn from home, you must learn from home”

– Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews (April 7th 2020) –

In the interest of all members of the school community having a clear understanding of who should and should not be on-site at school, we have outlined quite a bit of information below so parents can make the best, most informed decision for their child; with the health and safety of their family and community being at the core of whatever decision they come to.

It is important to note two things:

1. School will be a very different place. Strict adjustments will be made in line with COVID-19 health advice and these are outlined below.
2. Student learning on-site will be exactly the same as if students were at home. They will undertake the same remote learning activities.

The aim of this letter is to provide frank, clear facts about school attendance from April 15th and I am not in a position to “sugar-coat” any information. This is black and white and must be communicated to the community accordingly.

YOU <u>SHOULD</u> ONLY CONSIDER SENDING YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF:	YOU <u>SHOULD NOT</u> CONSIDER SENDING YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IF:
<p><u>FIRST AND FOREMOST:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <u>Both</u> parents/carers are essential services workers (in fields such as health, law enforcement, corrections, education, other emergency services etc)- Both parents/carers are not working from home.- Your child/children cannot be safely looked after at home by yourself or anyone else. <p><u>IF YOU TICK THE ABOVE THREE POINTS, BOTH PARENTS/CARERS ALSO:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Accept that sending your child to school is done so at your own risk and the school is not responsible for any future health issues, specifically COVID-19.- Understand and are comfortable with the <u>“School COVID-19 Adjustments”</u> below.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- One or both parents/carers are not essential services workers.- One or both parents/carers are not currently working.- One or both parents/carers are working from home.- Children can be safely looked after at home by parents/carers or someone else.- You simply “need a break” or “need to run some errands”- Your child is exhibiting any sign of illness, including minor ‘sniffles’ etc.- Any member of the family has been unwell in the last 14 days.- You are not comfortable with the <u>“School COVID-19 Adjustments”</u> below.



Mooroolbark East

PRIMARY SCHOOL

KINDNESS. RESPECT. RESILIENCE. GROWTH.

SCHOOL COVID-19 ADJUSTMENTS:

- A "skeleton staff" will be on-site and students will not necessarily have their normal teacher.
- Students should not be at school any earlier than 8.55am. The location for drop off will be advised at a later date. (Before and After School Care details will be advised as soon as possible).
- Students and families will not be permitted to congregate at the school gate or on school grounds before or after school.
- Students will be placed in multi-aged classrooms with a maximum of 9 other children.
- All playgrounds will be closed and out of bounds.
- Students will spend a maximum of 30 minutes outside each day
- Students will not be able to share any equipment (ie, stationery inside, sports equipment such as basketballs outside)
- All drinking taps will be switched off and children must bring drink bottles (refill taps will be available)
- The 1.5m social distancing rules will be strictly monitored and adhered to; including staff-student interactions, as well as seating and student-student play arrangements.
- A zero tolerance approach to negative behaviour will be in place.
- Any student exhibiting any signs of illness or being unwell will be sent home immediately.
- Students will undertake remote learning in the same way they would at home.
- There will not be face to face teaching and it will not be a normal school day. Teachers who are on-site, will be effectively doing two jobs – teaching their normal grade remotely (online) and providing supervision and care for children who are on-site.

If after reading all the above, you make the decision to send your child to school can you please notify me in writing to mulcahy.matthew.m@edumail.vic.gov.au with the following information by **Friday April 10th**:

1. The names and grades of your child/children.
2. The occupation of both parents/carers
3. The days/times your child/children will be attending
4. Any other relevant information.

Finally, I apologise if this letter seems a little blunt, however, at this unprecedented time it is vital that everyone is clear on the criteria for school attendance and the very different nature of on-site schooling from next term. Of course, it is also important that, as a community, we continue to follow the government's strong stance to stay home and self-isolate as much as possible.

As a school we understand the crucial role we can play at this very difficult time and we are prepared and ready to do that. At the same time, we are very mindful of ensuring parents' number one priority is the health and safety of their children, their household and their community.

On behalf of your child, our students, our staff and our community, thanks in advance for making the best, most considered decision in regards to your child's attendance at school from April 15th. I am so proud of our community's incredible track record of support, trust and common-sense in times of adversity and I am sure this will be the case as we work together through this very challenging time in all our lives.

More information regarding remote learning will be sent out to the community in the coming days. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact myself, your child's teacher or another member of the Leadership Team should you have any queries.

Take care and stay safe and healthy out there.

Best Regards,

Matt Mulcahy | Principal