

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well and have been spending some quality time with your family, in what can only be described as a strange holiday break! This week the Premier and Minister for Education have announced that, on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, all Victorian Government Schools will transition back to remote learning arrangements for during the beginning of Term 3 (July 20th to August 19th).

Further to my message last week, Overport Primary School and all other Victorian schools are holding five Student-Free days from 13th-17th July. Term Three will commence on Monday 20th July for our students remotely. This is obviously an extraordinary step in response to unprecedented circumstances. The staff are currently working onsite to prepare for the next stage of remote teaching and learning. They are modifying programs to ensure less stress for parents, while still providing for all students. We greatly appreciate your support as we navigate our way through these ongoing and challenging times. **Teams will be sending out specific information for their levels tomorrow.**

Further advice comes from the Department of Education and Training (DET) regularly so we will keep you updated. At this stage I can provide you with this information:

All students will be learning from home and undertaking the Overport Remote Learning program from Monday 20th July.

We will continue to communicate via Sentral to your email and encourage you to use the website as needed. Information can be found also on the Official Overport School Facebook page. Joining the "Overport Parents and Friends" Facebook page is also very useful. We will continue several activities such as our Friday well-being day and remote assembly each week to try and keep some normality for the children as well. Teachers will also use Google Meets to keep student engaged. We have truly noticed, in the short time when the students had returned last term, those students whose parents helped them engage throughout this time and supported them had increased in their academic capacities. ***You are a very important part of this.***

*Students whose parents cannot work from home are able to attend school and will be **supervised** by school staff. Please fill in the attached on-site form so we are able to ensure sufficient staff to support them. As well as students of essential works, vulnerable students can be accommodated if it is in their best interest. Please contact either one of our assistant principals or me directly for us to outline for you how this looks on-site or whether this will suit your child's needs.*

A reminder that students attending school will undergo a daily temperature check on arrival. If over 37.4 degrees, the school will be asking parents to collect the child and keep them at home, seek medical advice and not return to school until the temperature is normal and the child is in full health.

Please be assured that our staff are well prepared for this scenario and are spending this week planning effectively for this next stages in the remote learning journey and responding to student, staff and parent feedback.

I am so incredibly proud of what Overport PS teachers were able to deliver in Term 2 and a great deal of learning and reflection has taken place to enable us to continue to support the students and ensure that is as manageable as possible for you. A term that was unlike any other that Education has ever seen and one in which the staff and students (and parents) of Overport stood up and performed in a way that some schools can only dream of. Our community have been so positive and supportive about the remote learning experience and what was provided to the children.

If you have any correspondence that is urgent and important, please contact me or email the school at overport.ps@education.vic.gov.au marked 'Attention to the Principal' and I will respond.

I thank you for your ongoing kindness and understanding. This will most certainly be a time we reflect on for many years to come. Hopefully recalling these challenges we faced allowed for a great deal of quality family time and the maintenance of the health of our family and friends. I ask that you please be patient and understanding.

Please stay home, stay safe and take care of yourselves and each other.

Kind Regards,

Julie Gleeson



Principal

Overport Primary School

03 9783 8777

0401 562 444

gleeson.julie.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

www.overport-ps.vic.edu.au

Please note that in the interest of work/life balance, staff will only answer emails between the hours of 8.30 am and 4.30 pm on weekdays. Please allow sufficient time for staff to get back to you.