

12th May, 2020

Today's communication.



Dear Parents and Carers,

There seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel! A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents and teachers for your support during these past weeks of remote and flexible learning. Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has advised that schools can begin a phased return to on-site schooling.

In the **first stage**, students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2, senior secondary (Year 11 and 12 VCAL and VCE) students and all students in specialist schools will return to school from Tuesday 26 May.

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, **Monday 25 May** will be a student-free day. There will be no on-site or remote learning offered that day and while staff are planning for the return of students, the school will undergo a deep clean.

In the **second stage** of our return to on-site schooling, all other year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9 June. Monday 8 June is the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday.

For those students from **years 3 to 6** the existing model of remote learning from home will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. For those student of essential workers requiring on-site support the current process, that we are using, including advising us of your requirements, will continue for this two-week period.

When a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to on-site schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan. For normal cases of illness please use the absence line. This same approach is being taken by all government schools in Victoria.

To support the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent hand washing and sanitizing.

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, **they must not attend** school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice to all schools that is available. This will apply until further notice. I will provide more detail about our school's context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes may include:

- adjusted arrangements for drop off and pick up to promote social distancing;

- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students;
- the way we conduct parent-teacher meetings and interviews;
- modified mid-year student reports, which may be forwarded home in term three.

We understand that some families may have some concerns about the 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 and we are all looking forward to getting children back in class and back to normal schooling.

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/...>

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. There have been new learnings for us all. I will keep you updated with Overport's return to school via Sentral emails and how we, as a community, can support a safe return for all.

Kind Regards,

Julie Gleeson



Principal

Overport Primary School

03 9783 8777

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.