

Today's Update.

Wise word from the Dalai Lama: *When you can't control what's happening, challenge yourself to control the way you respond to what's happening. That is where your power is. So, stay safe everyone and be kind to each other.*

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are already aware, we have commenced school holidays from today, Tuesday 24 March. As these are school holidays, teachers will not be sending further work. Remember that your children have experienced a time of stress that has not been experienced by us before. They pick up on our feelings of discomfort. So, in times of stress, children need to be children. Therefore take this time to do things together: plant a garden, play a board game, make a cake, teach them to cook or maybe learn a new recipe together. Enjoy them!

However, you may like to use some of the links sent home under "Useful Home Learning Links" to keep the children busy over the holidays as we face a holiday period that is very different to what we have experienced before. No cinemas, camping trips, flying interstate, sleep overs with friends or grandparents and large parties. However, please remember children need physical activity every day; so, lots of walks and ball games in an open spaces; open spaces are the best places for children to play. These links were sent via Sentral, Seesaw Schools and are also on our FB pages and our website: www.overport-ps.vic.edu.au

Be mindful that this week care and supervision programs are available for the children of essential services workers as I outlined yesterday. Examples of essential services may include health, police, corrections, youth justice, emergency services, supermarkets, petrol stations, child care, aged care and pharmacy personnel. If you consider your work an essential service but are unsure, please contact me to ask. Therefore, if you work in essential services and need to send your child to school on any day this week, please contact the office today to confirm your child's attendance on the specific day/s. This will allow us to put appropriate arrangements in place. For those who attend this week, we will be observing the latest advice on social distancing, with a maximum of 10 children in a room at any one time

All students will be expected to attend school from the start of Term 2 on Wednesday 15 April, which may be by remote and flexible learning arrangements. Our teachers are working this week on planning for Term 2 and, should it be necessary, remote learning. **Can you please advise your child's teacher if your child does not have access to any digital technology so that they can provide alternatives if required.**

More information regarding coronavirus and schools is available on the Department of Education and Training website, which will continue to be updated as the situation evolves:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you for your support during this time. The many warm and encouraging comments on our FB and via emails thanking our wonderful staff for their efforts at this difficult time has been appreciated and well received.

Warm regards,

Julie Gleeson
Principal