

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of our school, I want to say a big thank you to all our students, parents and carers for your continued resilience and support during Term 3. I know remote and flexible learning has not always been easy, but through our collective efforts, our students have continued to make valuable progress in their learning. You can be confident that our school will continue to support all our student from their point of need as we move into the rest of this year.

Term 4 is important for every Victorian student, and our teachers will strive to deliver high-quality learning for everyone. Whether we're teaching remotely or face-to-face, our focus for Term 4 is on making sure that every student is supported in their wellbeing, learning and transition needs.

Term 4 on-site schooling arrangements for students

Subject to the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, Victorian Government has outlined the staged return to on-site schooling as part of its gradual road map towards reopening. However, this weekend we may receive advice from our Government with possible changes to the current road map.

The purpose of the initial plan is to get students back in the classroom as soon and as safely as possible without putting at risk all that has been achieved through the period of restrictions to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

To achieve both these aims, the return to onsite learning needs to be staged, just as the easing of all other restrictions is staged.

There are two reasons for this. The first is that in metropolitan Melbourne, health authorities need to monitor the impact of students and parents beginning to move across the city again before schools move to a full return. Having one million students return to school all at once could compromise the ability to monitor this impact.

The second reason is that VCE students must return in week one of Term 4 and must be able to complete the three-hour General Achievement Test (GAT) that week. In order to ensure the focus is on these students and the appropriate safety measures are in place, this means no other students can be on-site on our secondary or P-12 campuses the week before the GAT. This is the best way to ensure the ongoing safety of the whole community.

For our school, the following arrangements apply:

5–9 October (first week of Term 4)

- remote and flexible learning will continue for all students
- on-site supervision for children of permitted workers and vulnerable students will continue to be provided, consistent with existing guidelines.
- To enable staffing to be arranged **please forward your on-site attendance request form and permit(s) to work by the deadline, Wednesday, 30th September by 5.00 pm**. To enable us to make suitable staffing arrangements, no exception will be accepted. These must be sent to my email address: Julie.Gleeson@education.vic.gov.au

From 12 October (second week of Term 4)

- students in Prep to Year 2 will return to full-time on-site schooling. The existing remote learning program **will not** continue for these year levels
- remote and flexible learning will continue for all students in Year 3 to Year 6
- on-site supervision will remain available for students in Year 3 to Year 6 who are the children of permitted workers and vulnerable students. Note the deadline for on-site form request to be forwarded each Wednesday at 5.00 pm, prior to the week required.

This will continue until a date is set for the return of all students to on-site learning, based on health advice.

Outside Hours School Care and vacation care

During the staged return, outside school hours care will be available to students attending for on-site supervision and progressively for the relevant year levels returning to on-site schooling.

Vacation care is operating during these school holidays but only for students who are eligible for on-site supervision at school during last Term. (Term 3)

Health and safety measures

The Term 3 remote and flexible learning arrangements were put in place to significantly reduce the movement of more than one million students and their families across Victoria, to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Thanks to you and your family for contributing to this on behalf of our school community.

As on-site schooling resumes, we will continue to have in place strong measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community. This includes staggering start and finish times, restricting parent access to school grounds and continued emphasis on hand hygiene and physical distancing where possible.

As outlined in my last communication, when Years Prep to 2 commence on 12th October, they will not line up but go straight into their classroom between 8.45 am and 9.15 am. Students can be collected from the same entry door commencing at 3.15 pm. Those remaining will then be dismissed at 3.30 pm. Please make arrangements to meet them outside the school gates or for those younger ones, at a reasonable distance within the school grounds. Please continue to ensure social distancing and mask wearing for all adults and high school students.

Whether your child is, or children are, returning to face-to-face learning or will be continuing with remote and flexible learning, please be assured we will be focused on three key priorities in Term 4:

1. Mental health and wellbeing

Our highest priority will be the wellbeing, particularly the mental health, of every student and member of staff. This means effectively mobilising all available resources to support our most vulnerable students and enabling staff to access the relevant support services.

2. Learning and excellence

Some of our students have thrived in the remote and flexible learning environment, others have maintained their learning progress, and some may have fallen behind, despite their best efforts and those of their families and teachers. Our priority will be supporting both those who may need to catch up and those who have progressed to continue to extend their learning from their individual point of need.

3. Transitions

We will make every effort to ensure successful transitions for children moving from kindergarten into Prep, the Year 6s moving into Year 7.

We know some families are worried that their child may have to repeat a year due to the disruptions of coronavirus (COVID-19). There is little evidence to support the benefits of repeating a year to catch up. Instead, schools will use teaching strategies that draw on the best evidence available to help students meet their learning needs. Parents, families and carers can be confident that the best option for almost every child is to stay with their peer group, whether that is moving from kindergarten into Prep, or moving from Year 6 into Year 7 at secondary school, or students moving up any year level in between. This does not include students where discussions have already taken place between parents and teachers previous to the current situation, especially in relation to a possible second year in prep.

Our school, working with you, has shown it can be flexible and adaptable in responding to the challenges of coronavirus (COVID-19) and will continue to meet student needs as we look towards the end of the 2020 school year and ahead to 2021.

Kind Regards,

Julie Gleeson



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