

NEWSLETTER

Principal: Tamara Halket

Email: gormandale.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Web Site: www.gormandale.vic.edu.au

Tuesday 12th May

Dear Families,

This morning an announcement was made by Premier Daniel Andrews in regards to school re-suming for Term 2. A letter is attached to this newsletter that outlines the response for all Victorian Government Schools. There is also some information that is relevant only to our school context.

We ask that these guidelines be strictly adhered to for the health and safety of our entire community, inclusive of teachers and their families. Further information will be sent in next week's newsletter to inform you of protocols and expectations upon return to school.

It will be especially important to make note of changes to pick up and drop off processes, as parents remain in their cars. Support will be provided to ensure the safety of students for this to occur.

It will be normal for students to feel like they do not want to return to school at this time. It is difficult to break a new routine after we have settled into it. This will be happening in every home and every school making this return. We will endeavour to put measures in place that encourage students and ease them back into the school routine.

Updates:

- Due to the COVID-19 situation, all school camps planned for 2020 have been cancelled. GDPS will address this later in the year with the hopes of offering special class excursions when venues re-open.
- Photos for 2020 are in the process of being re-booked for later in the year.
- School assemblies will be limited to attending students only.
- There will be no lunch orders or pie warmer use for the remainder of Term 3.

Thank you to each and every family for your continuing support throughout this difficult time. It is a relief to have a return to a more normal life in sight. I do ask that anyone that may be experiencing difficulties to reach out to us at the school, or other community or health organizations. Your feelings are valid, and there are numerous organizations able to assist when needed.

Have a safe and happy week,

Tamara Halket

Principal

Eagles of the past two weeks

**Flossy, Nellie, Aussie,
Reuben,**

Maddy, Hunter & Aimee



CHAPLAINS CORNER

Challenges can present opportunities

The events of the last couple of months in Australia has been super challenging to say the least. The mandate to stay at home, shut down businesses, schools and non-essential activities has been a first in our lifetime.

Things like social distancing and not being able to catch up with friends, family and those you love has been very restrictive. I am sure that all of us have found this very challenging in some way.

I have heard some say that it is like we are going through a "global reset."

Personally, although I am missing the normal freedoms that I have taken for granted, it has also presented an opportunity to reset my own priorities. For me exercise had gone missing, but since the lockdown I have been very consistent walking around both lakes in Sale most days.

This time can be very challenging but it can present an opportunity for families to reset their priorities. For instance you could try:

- Implementing more of a team approach to running the household. It could be an opportunity to develop the concept that **Together Each one Achieves More**.
- Resetting family routines throughout the day, where we all participate. This could include starting by getting up on time, having meals together, completing designating chores, then the learning activities that have been set out the day.
- At the end of the day having a quick fun catch up to see how we all went during the day, with acknowledgement, thanks and appropriate rewards.

What a shame it would be if we got to the end of the lockdown and we hadn't seen the opportunities during this time.

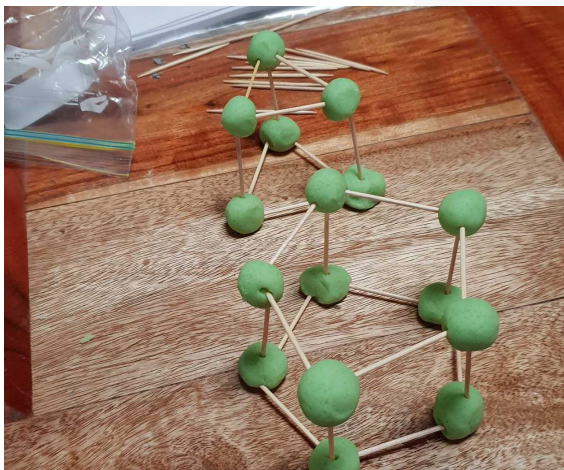
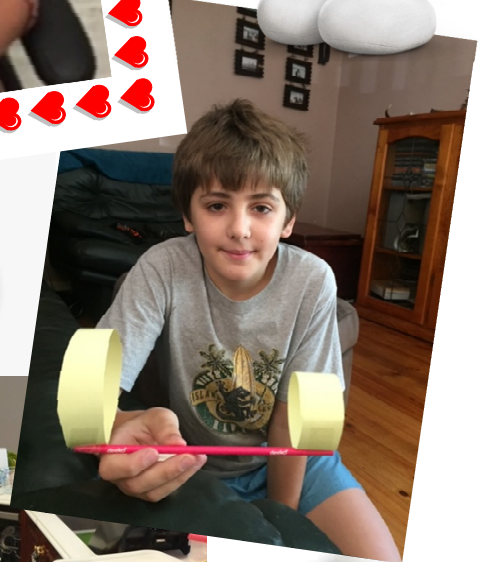
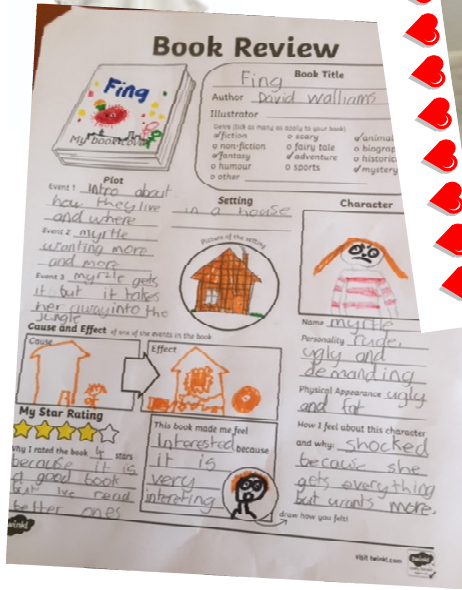
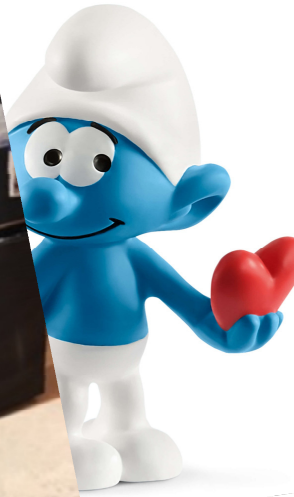
Apart from that, I really do hope that you are doing okay..??!!

I am endeavouring to be at the school each Tuesday and working from home apart from that. I am gradually making my way through the student list to see how everyone is tracking. So if I haven't given you a call, I will be in contact in due course to say hi. Meanwhile, please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to chat or if you think I can assist you in some way.

Take care,

Brian Heath
School Chaplain
0492 863 669





12th May, 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your support during these past few 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 pupil-free day.

In the **second stage** of our return to on-site schooling, all other year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9 June.

For those students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of on-site schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which on-site schooling is required will continue for this two-week period. All other students in these grades and year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

Once 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.

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.

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice. Children showing any symptoms of illness will be sent home from school.

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 local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:

- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students – *parents must remain in cars at pick up and drop off times*
- adjusted arrangements for drop off and pick up, including staggered release of students at finish times
- the way we conduct parent-teacher meetings – parents will be asked to make phone appointments and must not be in the school buildings at any time without prior arrangement
- no parents or carers are to wait inside school buildings, or around any entry/ exit points
- no lunch orders or pie warmer for the remainder of Term 2

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this 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.

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/departments/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom.

Yours sincerely,

Tamara Halket
PRINCIPAL