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**An Independent Public School**

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you now to let you know about the arrangements the Department of Education wants us to put in place for our school for Term 2 and what it might mean for you and your children. It has never been more true, than at present, that in an evolving situation plans change rapidly.

As you are aware these are unprecedented times and, therefore, schools will look and function differently over the coming weeks, to maintain learning and to keep your children and our staff safe. All schools will adopt an approach that works best for them and their community depending upon what resources they have available and the needs of their community.

I understand this may be an uncertain and difficult period for you and your family. That is why parents/carers have been given a choice about whether their children return to school for face-to-face teaching or learn from home. It is a personal decision influenced by each family's circumstances. Whether your child is at school or working from home over the next couple of weeks, they will be covering the same curriculum.

**The usual expectation that children who are unwell do not attend school still applies – and is even more important in the current climate of uncertainty.**

To assist with your decision making, please note the following:

- Monday 27 April is a public holiday;
- **Tuesday 28 April will be a pupil free day.** There will be no students at school as staff will be using this day for preparation;
- From **Wednesday 29 April, school is open** for all students whose parents/carers **choose** to send them;
- Students who attend school will be taught a face-to-face program and timetable, but this **may not** necessarily be with their usual teachers;
- For those children learning from home, this will be through online or hard copy packages provided to you from school. Details of how to undertake and return the work will accompany the packages;
- For those students who are learning from home, contact by school will be made each week by phone and/or online;
- Year 11 and 12 students are strongly encouraged to attend school to continue their critical study program;
- Parents/Carers are asked to drop their child/children at 'the school gate' and to not enter the school grounds. Children will also need to be picked-up from 'the school gate' or from the Reading Street pick-up point.

This last point is just the start of how school will look different in Term 2. Schools have been asked to consider staggered starts to the school day, different recess and lunch breaks for children, splitting or combining classes and using different spaces within the school to deliver lessons. Implementation of any of these alternatives will depend upon the number of children attending school. Details on these alternatives will be provided once I have a clearer picture of student attendance (especially in reference to how the last dot point will work).

To help us with our planning, **there will be an email survey sent out on Thursday** by your child's teacher so that you can indicate if your child(ren) will be attending on Wednesday. This does not 'lock you in' to

anything, you can change your mind one way or the other – it is purely to give me some idea of how many children we will be expecting.

**A revised work-package ‘pick-up’ plan will be sent out on Tuesday April 28 to reflect the possible change in numbers.**

The State Government is providing \$43 million in additional funding to the Department of Education to expand school cleaning, in line with the health advice. Cleaners will work throughout the day to ensure all high-use areas (such as, but not limited to, benchtops, desks, doorknobs, taps and hand rails) are regularly cleaned and surfaces disinfected. Our playgrounds will be open and play equipment will be cleaned before school and after each break.

Strategies will be put in place to ensure all children are observing hygiene practices of washing their hands on a regular basis and using hand sanitiser. If your child has allergies to alcohol-based sanitisers and soaps, this is something that you need to be aware of and consider.

**We will provide further information on how our school will manage this situation, ahead of school beginning on Wednesday 29 April.**

These arrangements will be in place and reviewed ahead of Week 4, commencing 18 May. As always, school planning will reflect State Government decisions that will be based on the best health advice.

I want all families and children to feel supported and informed during this time. I thank you for your patience, understanding and partnership as we navigate this together.

Kind Regards  
Shane Doherty  
Principal