



Nilma Primary School

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COVID-19 UPDATE Nilma Primary School Transition to flexible and remote learning - Term 2 - 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

This morning the Premier of Victoria and Education Minister made announcements on how schools will operate in Term 2. We anticipated and planned for many of the announcements, however, we will continue to work on specifics over the coming days and next Tuesday 14th of April (Student Free day).

We have been planning for a number of weeks the delivery of teaching and learning online. We are prepared for this transition. Learning from home requires subtle differences in lesson design, purpose and delivery to ensure students are able to access new learning and apply new skills in practice. Our online learning platform SENTRAL will be used to support students learning at home, along with other online learning tools.

Important points for the state government announcement this morning:

To increase physical distancing across the population and slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), children in Victorian government schools should move to remote and flexible learning and care at the commencement of Term 2.

This means that from the start of term two all students who can learn from home must learn at home.

- Remote and Flexible learning will occur in Victorian schools for the duration of Term 2
- All students who can stay at home, MUST stay at home.

In line with this and State requirements, the majority of staff will work from home.

The Principal and a small number of school teachers and operational staff will remain at school for the purpose of ongoing leadership, coordination and quality assurance of our teaching and learning online programs.

The school will provide a place of care, support and learning for children of essential and front line service workers who have no option than to send their children to school.

Please understand there is no additional learning advantage to this model – learning content and materials will be the same for students learning online at home.

Due to the limited number of staff physically at school, those who have no option but to attend will be cared for and supported by different staff, not necessarily their current classroom teacher or teachers. As already mentioned, regardless of the circumstance, the same teaching and learning content and materials will be provided by our SENTRAL platform (and hard copy for those students who may require it).

Access to a device / or Internet at home

In order to best provide for our online learning and ensure no child is disadvantaged, we need to ascertain which families have a device and internet at home, and which do not.

Families were surveyed at the end of last term. We will be in contact with families who may need additional devices and access to the internet to discuss options to support.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for additional support.

For the purpose of learning at home a device does not need to belong specifically to your child, but we need to determine whether children can have access to a device for a number of hours at home across a school day. (you may have more than one child needing access) Many of the planned learning tasks can be downloaded, saved or require a workbook, piece of paper or other materials that can be found at home. Students will not require to be on a device for long lengths of time.

What to expect next

Early next week, prior to the commencement of Term 2 for students on Wednesday the 15th of April, we will provide all students and families with information on how to structure their weekly learning routine in line with the schools schedule. We will also provide information on how and when teachers are available, how to access our online learning platform and how to seek assistance if you have difficulty with IT access or have other concerns.

I appreciate the last few weeks have been unsettling for many students, families and communities. It is important that our students remain supported, resilient, focused and committed to their education.

A fantastic starting point is to ensure a regular routine, including time for learning, time for play, time for exercise and time for sleep.

We will continue to provide updates and most importantly ensure that every child continues to thrive and learn. We are all in this together so feedback will be really important into the future.

Take care of one another and stay safe.

Kind regards,



Annette Sutherland
Nilma Primary School Principal