



## Pentland Primary School N<sup>o</sup>. 5369

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Principal : Mr Andrew Harrison

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 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 Brianna Munro or Sky Walter so we can make an appropriate plan.

This same approach is being taken by all government schools in Victoria.

Any device that has been loaned from the school during this time will also need to be returned once the children have resumed their schooling on-site.

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. Hand wash and sanitiser will be available in all classrooms and communal areas around the school. Please ensure that your child has been shown how and

demonstrated the correct technique for hand washing before returning to school. If students choose to bring PPE in to school with them, they must be able to put it on without assistance.

**If you child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school.** They must remain home and seek medical advice.

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. These changes will include:

- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students. This means that parents and carers must not enter the school grounds at drop-off and pick-up times. Children are to be collected outside their designated school gate (4 gates will be open and they will be allocated according to house colour – more information will be sent home regarding this) and you must observe social distancing marks at this time. Bus travellers and OSHC users will remain as normal. Please communicate with your child which gate they are assigned to and where they are to meet you after school as the office will not have the capacity to deal with mass confusion every day. If you need to come in to the office during the day for any reason, please call ahead to make an appointment. From 26 May, all admin staff will be working on site so we will be able to have the phone lines fully operational once again. Students are able to begin arriving on-site from 8.20am onwards. Daily temperature checks may be introduced as an additional safety measure.
- As we have a relatively small number of students utilising a rather large outdoor area, at this stage, lunch times shall remain the same, with consideration to social distancing. **Please ensure your child brings their own water bottle to school as the water bubblers will be turned off and not available for children to use.**
- Canteen and Breakfast Club will not be operational during Term 2 as we work on a plan to bring them back in Term 3 with consideration to social distancing.
- At this stage, we are still hoping to go ahead with delivering our Camps program in Term 4 so information will be sent home as soon as it is available.

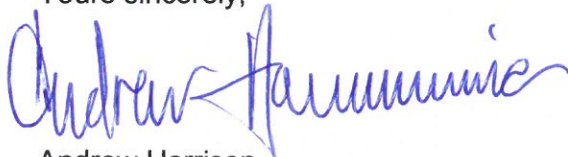
We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

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/department/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,



Andrew Harrison