

15th February 2021

LOCKDOWN & SCHOOL CLOSURE – MONDAY 15TH TO WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

Dear SFX families,

I feel that you are owed some explanation about the events of last Friday afternoon with regards to the sudden announcement that schools would be closed as part of a five day statewide lockdown. Whilst the Herald Sun carried a front page article of the 5 Day Lockdown, it would be a brave person to call Remote Learning prior to it being officially announced. So we waited for the Premier's Press Conference all morning when finally at.....

1.10pm I was actually in the presbytery meeting with Father Michael and watching the telecast of Premier Andrew's Press Conference. Please note that by this stage all of the Preps had already gone home at their 1pm dismissal time for the week. Thus extinguishing any hope of reaching out to the Preps with any school work on their 8th day of school. At this conference it was announced that

"Schools would be closed. They would only be open for the children of Permitted Essential Workers and Vulnerable children".

1.25pm Knowing we had limited time, we moved to communicating this message to the SFX parent community, organising a booking facility for those children who needed to be supervised at school over the three days, speaking to the children about what was happening in COVID land.

2.45 pm Communications went out to all SFX parents about the three day school closure. In hardcopy, on the website, by e-newsletter, by the Updat-Ed app and on the SFX Facebook site. We were already getting parent phone calls at school asking what was happening.

2.57 pm Communications are received from MACS and our Director that whilst schools were 'closed "*During this period, schools will, to the extent possible, enable continuity of learning from home. This can include remote learning programs and/or the provision of learning materials*"

Whilst we are proficient at Remote Learning after last year, we simply cannot roll out a Remote Learning Program in 33 minutes for Year 1 to 6 children. Preps had left school 90 minutes earlier than the official MACS Directive.

3.10pm - Putting the wellbeing of the students as priority #1 and the students not obviously being party to press conferences through the day, I decided that we should assemble as a school and speak to the students about what was in store for them next week. We called it a mini three day holiday, rather than dredge up the dreaded "Remote Learning" word that students (and teachers) dread so much.

Parents would remember that for Remote Learning 2.0 at SFX last year:

- Year 3 to 6 students had already signed an Acceptable Use Policy early in the year. (*We were actually going to meet with the Year 3 to 6 students at 2.45pm on Friday to distribute these, but other more pressing matters got in the way.*)
- It took us two full days to distribute all tubs and devices. A to K one day, L to Z on the second day
- We asked parents to sign a "Borrowing of School Devices" sheet stating their obligations when borrowing a school device
- We had 3 days to create student Google accounts for Year 1 and 2 students, install Seesaw on the Prep devices, and ensure that Google Classroom was working on all 300 devices
- We began with take home packs moving to full live sessions by Remote Learning 3.0

There is no way that this could possibly be achieved in 33 minutes.

The only way a school could possibly be ready for Remote Learning from 9am Monday 15th February is if a school has BYOD (Bring your own device from home) in place. That is, students bring their own device to school each day and take the same device home every night. As you would be aware at SFX we do not expect parents to supply their own devices. We provide school owned devices to you as part of your Student Levy.

Indeed teachers will use the next three days (*if they are not at school supervising students*) profitably and productively. Bringing forward planning meetings, completing mandated yearly e-learning modules, working on School Review components etc

One of the components that we will indeed work on will be what we do if another snap pandemic lock down occurs, what it will look like, how long will it go for, what can actually be achieved and ultimately delivered.

We will always do our absolute best to maximise every learning opportunity for all SFX students whether they are at school or at home. Thank you to parents for supporting us in our endeavours.

Regards

Philip Cachia
(Principal)



COVID-19 update, Term 1, no. 3:
Victorian Government
announcement
Unsubscribe

CECV Executive Director
cecvc@cecvcatholic.edu.au ...

To: principal@sfxmontmorency.ca...
Friday, 12 February, 2:57 pm



COVID-19 Update

Friday 12 February 2021

Dear Principal,

The Victorian Government today announced new directions to provide the support of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

As a result, in line with the directions issued from Victoria's Chief Health Officer, all Victorian schools will move to a period of remote and flexible provision from Monday 15 February to Wednesday 17 February inclusive.