

03.08.20

COVID19 – LEVEL FOUR RESTRICTIONS - CHANGES TO SCHOOLING & REMOTE LEARNING 3.0

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

At 7.54pm on Sunday evening, directives were issued by Catholic Education Melbourne with regards to how schools should respond to advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer that metropolitan Melbourne will move to Stage 4 restrictions to slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

These requirements apply to all schools across metropolitan Melbourne and rural and regional Victoria.

The changes to schools' operations will come into effect from **Wednesday 5 August**, following a **student free day on Tuesday 4 August**, and are likely to apply **until the end of Term 3 2020**. As outlined in the Chief Health Officer's advice on Friday, schools remain safe places for staff and students – but these steps are critical measures to reduce the movement of students and families across the State.

There are implications for our school, and for families in our school community.

A summary of what the changes mean for schools is below.

PREP TO YEAR 10

Prep to Year 10 students will continue with remote and flexible learning (Remote Learning 3.0).

The criteria for students that can attend on-site has changed as follows:

1. children whose parents are **“permitted workers from defined industries”** The Victorian Government will provide further advice about this over the coming days.
2. **Vulnerable children** in out of home care, children known to child protection and other agencies and children the school identifies as vulnerable
3. **Children with a disability who also fit into one of the above two categories.**

Please note that this is a change to previous arrangements and in the Premier's own words *“a tightening up of previous arrangements”*.

Some considerations for our school community:

1. We will wait to see who fits into the “permitted worker” category which should be announced today.
2. The school will ask for a letter from your employer which must state that you are a “permitted worker”, the days on which you work and that you cannot work from home
3. In a family where one parent is a “permitted worker” and the other parent is not and needs to work from home, then the children in this family must also do **Remote Learning @ Home**.

4. The children with a **disability category** has also been restricted to those of “**permitted workers**”

Children who attend Remote @ School are strongly encouraged to wear facemasks as this keeps them and other staff and students safe.

If you fit into these categories above this will be your booking link for next week(10th to 14th August)
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10ZiNQPeOjWWr4qYqgYkgakSzpBJxwk-UbiROJNC6rqq/viewform?edit_requested=true

As stated in last week's newsletter and now accentuated by these new Level 4 restrictions, it is only for a very select few that Remote @ School will now be available. For each teacher that is rostered to do supervision at school, this takes them away from teaching the majority of students who are learning from home. Remember this is now long haul. Remote Learning is targeted at a student's learning level, learning that is assessable and this will now take place for the remainder of Term 3. We understand that this may cause some frustrations and changes within the family home, however we must do all we can to slow and stop the spread of this virus.

TIMELINE

Monday 3 August will be a 'normal' day of school under current Remote Learning arrangements.

Tuesday 4 August will be a **student-free day across Victoria** to enable teachers, especially in rural and regional Victoria, to prepare for flexible and Remote Learning.

Thus there are two changes here:

1. There will be no Morning Meet & Greet or 'live' classes presented on this day.
2. There will be no school work presented to the children on this day
3. There will be no Remote @ School Supervision on this day

Wednesday 5 August will be the first day of new arrangements for schools across Victoria

OTHER CHANGES....

Level 4 restrictions seek to limit the number of people moving around our streets and suburb. This is a new world for many of us.

As such teachers will need to amend their delivery of lessons to include:

- No more take home packs past this week. If you haven't yet picked up your pack please pick it up prior to Level 4 restrictions beginning at midnight on Wednesday.
- More 'live' sessions as the term progresses as this gives us a truer picture of the learning for each child. It is also a way of keeping the students engaged with school.
- Greater communication with parents when tasks are not being done or attempted on a regular and continual basis
- There will only be a skeleton staff at school. The best way to contact your teacher is through Google Classroom or directly by email. Here is the link to all the staff email addresses: <https://www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au/page/251/Staff-2020>

Thank you for continuing to support your children with their Remote Learning. We, as a staff, have continue to learn, change and adapt as we have gone along reacting to directives that have been imposed upon us. Patience and positivity is the key and the more of that that pervades our community at the moment, the better. We will get through this and we will get through this together.

My best wishes to you all as we enter Remote Learning 3.0. Let's continue to pray.....

Philip Cachia
Principal