

REMOTE LEARNING TERM 2 2020 – PART 1 - ASSISTING THE FAMILIES OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES WORKERS

Dear Families,

I hope you have all been well and enjoying the pleasures of self-isolation in your own homes. My hope is that sometime during the next couple of days we are able to reflect on the Easter message, and that out of this period of darkness there will be some light.

You would now be aware that the Victorian Government and C.E.C.V have now directed that all schools will now be participating in Remote Learning for Term 2 2020. As of next Wednesday 15th April, your child will be part of Remote Learning. Another newsletter (Part 2) pertaining to what remote learning will look like for parents and students who will be taught at home will be issued shortly.

The directive from the Victorian Government is clear.

“IF YOU CAN LEARN FROM HOME, YOU MUST STAY HOME”

They have indicated that all students should be learning from home, with exceptions allowed for students in the following categories:

- Children who are not able to be supervised at home and on days when no other arrangements can be made. This includes children of parents who cannot work from home, and vulnerable children, such as:
 - Children in out-of-home care
 - Children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm
 - Children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service, mental health or other health service, and children with a disability)

Therefore this letter to the SFX school community seeks to determine which of our families must send their child to school in Term 2 2020.

THE CONTEXT

Everyone is being mandated to be in self isolation, where possible, to avoid community transmissions of COVID19. If children are being sent to school, they no longer are self isolated and risk contracting the disease or passing it onto someone else.

Staff will mainly teaching remotely from their own homes and will not be at school on a daily basis except to pop in to pick up resources etc. Staff will not be expected to work beyond their normal work day (8.40am to 3.40pm) and will not be immediately able to respond to emails as they will be Remote Teaching.

Where it is necessary for students to attend school throughout Term 2, they will undergo the same remote learning as their classmates, simply under the supervision of an SFX staff member at school. School as the children know it will run differently, including the following;

- Students will not receive individual tuition due to the 1.5m self distancing rule and for the equity of all students.
- Students will be seated at desks / tables that are within the socially distanced guidelines
- Class sizes will be a maximum of 10 students with a bottle of hand sanitizer provided at the door
- Students may not be taught by their normal class teacher or in their own classroom. Teachers will be rostered to supervise the Remote Learning that is occurring within the classroom.
- Students may not have regular recess and lunchtimes.

- Playground equipment, sporting equipment, Discovery Centre books, STEM and other resources will not be used due to possible transmission of COVID19 from surfaces
- Parents and guardians who drop off and pick up students must do this from the school gates and must not enter the school grounds or buildings at all.
- Rostered staff who are supervising your child at school may wear some form of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Eg. facemasks, gloves etc
- Students need to be 100% healthy and not show any signs of illness. If students become unwell during the day, they will need to be picked up from school immediately.

THE RISKS

There are many risks that parents should be aware of if they **must** send their child to school in Term 2. The school has a duty of care to not only the students, but also an OH&S duty of care to ensure that staff do not contract COVID19. We do have some staff who are immune suppressed and/or live with/care for elderly parents who then cannot be at school under any circumstances and cannot be exposed to COVID19.

Parents should be aware that students who are sent to school are seemingly at a higher risk of having and/or transmitting COVID19 to other children. There are children who come from families where parents are nurses, doctors, police etc who are currently not self isolated as they are working at the coalface to protect our community. We cannot guarantee that children who are being sent to school are not carrying COVID19 themselves and the school has no means for screening for this. The flow on effect from this is that if your child was exposed to another child with COVID19 whilst at school, the school would need to close for sanitization, and then both the child and your family, as well as other students and staff would need to go into the 14 day self isolation period.

THE PLANNING

So that we are able to plan for the number of students who **must** come to school over the coming term and develop a supervision roster could parents please email me at principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au your requirements.

Given some families may not know upcoming shifts/rosters this is an indication for the month of April 2020 only.

It is crucial that parents who **must** have their child attend school firmly commit to the days you have elected as we need to ensure that we have correct staff ratios and social distancing measures in place.

Simply copy the table below and email it back to me please with your details.

NAME OF CHILD:					
YEAR:					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School Care (7am to 8.40am)					
School Day 8.40am to 3.40pm					
After School Care 3.40pm to 6pm					
Essential Service Role: Comment as required-					

For the majority of families who will be remote learning from home another newsletter (Part 2) will be issued shortly.

This is a challenging time for all of us and we are learning as we go. We are fortunate however to be part of a positive, 'can do' community where I know we will all work in partnership together in the coming term.

Kind regards

Philip Cachia
Principal