

THIS LETTER CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS AND CARERS.

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning. I am extremely proud of the way in which our Cairnlea Park staff, students and parents have adjusted to the challenges we have found, supported each other and worked in this environment. Whilst it has not been easy, we have learnt a great deal about our ability to adapt, to communicate and engage in a technology rich environment.

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, senior secondary (Year 11 and 12 VCAL and VCE) students and all students in specialist schools 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, Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will return to school from Tuesday 9 June.

For those students in Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 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 of filling out the on-site supervision request form 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 9th 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 the school so we can make an appropriate plan.

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

To support the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff, Cairnlea Park Primary will continue an enhanced cleaning routine. We will also encourage frequent hand washing or sanitising.

If your 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 to all schools. This will apply until further notice. I will provide more detail about our local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:

- Where necessary adjusted arrangements for drop off and pick up, including staggered school start and finish times. This information will be provided later this week or early next week
- Restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students. Until further notice parents cannot come onsite into the school yard
- the way we conduct parent-teacher meetings and interviews

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,

Mark Mills

Principal

Cairnlea Park Primary School