

# UPDATE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS RE: COVID-19

20/03/2020

## COVID-19 UPDATE

Over the past weeks parents will have received multiple updates from the school regarding COVID-19 and how it may affect the operation of the school and your child's learning. As you can understand, it is a constantly changing situation and our Principal Team are working hard to provide you with updates as we receive them.

Parents are to be aware that we take our advice directly from the Department of Education (DET) who works in conjunction with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). As a DET State Government Principal I do not vary my actions from this advice. I will not be basing any decision making on hearsay or rumour.

Parents are advised if they have any concerns or would like to discuss any of the following information, to please contact me at the school by phone 03 8766 4000 or email [barton.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:barton.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

This email is also included in our newsletter.

## WHAT WE KNOW:

- There is no confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school community
- There are a number of members of our school community who have been tested for COVID-19 as a precaution
- There are members of our school community who are self isolating as per DHHS travel restrictions
- Teachers have been teaching all students personal hygiene practices
- Spotless (our cleaning and maintenance contractors) have intensified their sanitizing and cleaning regime from last week. This includes extra cleaning of table tops, vinyl furnishings and frequent touch points eg door handles
- Whole school programs and activities have been postponed or cancelled (see below)

## OUR SCHOOL IS OPEN

Until we receive instruction otherwise from the DET, there will not be a closure of the school and the school will remain open. Parents should be aware that if this situation was to change, I would be communicating the school closure and the arrangements for transition to Remote Learning via email.

## STUDENT ABSENCES

As per our normal process, we ask parents to log their child's absence on Sentral (the recording of absences fault has been repaired).

## HOMEWORK POLICY

We have received numerous enquiries from parents that have elected to keep their children at home to receive learning activities from the teachers. As our school is open we will be providing learning activities at school. This means that we will not be providing additional learning tasks for students that are absent. Our advice if your child is home from school is to access our online programs Mathletics and Reading Eggs and to follow the suggestions as outlined in our homework policy (as per our website). In the event of a transition to Remote Learning we will advise parents how this will work.

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## COVID-19 CASES

At this point in time there are NO confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our school community.

## POSTPONED/CANCELLED EVENTS AND PAYMENTS

Some parents have paid for the following activities.

Grade 3 Camp (Monday 27th April—Tuesday 28th April) – **postponed**

- We will provide a full refund. Parents will be contacted in early Term 2 regarding this.

Grade 2 Enviro Incursion (Monday 20th April) - **cancelled**

- Parents have a choice of a full refund or a credit. Parents will be contacted in early Term 2 regarding this.

## CLEANING

Spotless (our cleaning and maintenance contractors) have intensified their sanitizing and cleaning regime from last week. This includes extra cleaning of table tops, vinyl furnishings and frequent touch points eg door handles.

## MODIFIED PROGRAMS

As per instruction from the Department of Education, we will not be proceeding with the following School events:

- Whole School Photo Day (Tuesday 17th March) - **postponed**
- Harmony Day (Friday 20th March) - **postponed**
- Cross Country (Friday 20th March) - **postponed**
- Grade 3 Camp (Monday 27th April—Tuesday 28th April) - **postponed**
- Grade 2 Enviro Incursion (Monday 20th April) - **cancelled**
- Assemblies - **cancelled**

We will keep you updated regarding new dates for the events that have been postponed.

Andrew Felsinger  
**PRINCIPAL**



**Barton**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL