

28 March 2020

Dear Parents,

Today is what would have been our end of term. We would normally have an assembly at the end of the day, which would provide us with an opportunity to celebrate our Term 1 learning achievements and to wish everyone well for the holidays.

Instead our core group of eight staff who have been providing our Care and Supervision Service for our essential services workers children, will do the final shut down of the school for the vacation and we wave goodbye to a handful of students instead of 700 students, high fiving us after assembly.

As we go into the holidays, it is still unclear what will happen at the start of next term. We may be transitioning to Remote Learning** as a whole school, part school or it may be school as usual. We do not know at this stage. Our teaching and support staff have been working very hard on setting up learning for all students if we are to transition to Remote Learning.

The Department of Education DET, has been very proactive in providing online learning advice for parents to support what our teachers are planning. In addition they have provided some excellent advice on how to support our children in dealing with the Coronavirus. Please see some of the links below.

What we do know is that next term will be different.

Our focus at Barton has always been on student learning. This will not change. Regardless of how learning is structured next term, our teaching staff will be providing your child with appropriate learning tasks that will support their academic growth. If we do transition to Remote Learning we will need your support as learning will be structured to occur at home and not at school.

During the school holidays, I will continue to provide all parents with the latest information as it becomes available. If you need to contact the school for any reason, please email us barton.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au . This email will be monitored throughout the holidays.

The YMCA have just advised that they will be offering Holiday program at Tulliallan Primary School (89 Wheelers Park Dr, Cranbourne North VIC 3977) for all Barton PS students. Parents are advised to contact YMCA if you require this service, on 03 8371 0500 or <http://childrensprogram.ymca.org.au/>

I understand these are particularly difficult circumstances for families. Please do not hesitate to email me should you require support or advice or you have questions. In the meantime, remain positive and hopeful and most of all, stay well. Continue to follow the social distancing guidelines. Continue to practise good hygiene habits and continue to encourage them in your children. Remember isolation means isolation. If we are all diligent in our adherence to these protocols we should reduce the amount of time that COVID-19 will be influencing our community.

Please stay safe and stay healthy.

Andrew Felsing
PRINCIPAL

Barton
PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMARY

- ** Remote Learning is where the students remain at home and have online access to their learning tasks

- YMCA are offering a Holiday program for the two week school holiday period at Tulliallan Primary School contact the YMCA on 03 8371 0500 or <http://childrensprogram.ymca.org.au/>
- Term 2 commences Wednesday 15th April

PARENT RESOURCES

- Talking to Children About COVID-19 Parent Resource
[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)
- World Health Organisation – Helping Children cope with stress during the COVID-19 Outbreak https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/helping-children-cope-with-stress-print.pdf?sfvrsn=f3a063ff_2
- Quarantine at home – coping tips
<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/quarantine-at-home-coping-tips>
- Helping Children Cope with Emergencies – Centre for Disease Control & prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/helping-children-cope.html>