
REMOTE AND FLEXIBLE LEARNING AT THOMAS MITCHELL PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM MONDAY 20TH JULY, 2020

Dear Parents,

As you would be aware, the Victorian Government has made some significant announcements in relation to arrangements for schools in Victoria for Term 3.

Based on advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, Victorian Government schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire will have their holidays extended for one week. Schools will then move to remote and flexible learnings for students in Prep to Year 10 from the start of Week 2, the 20th July 2020.

It is very important to note that the advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer is that schools can continue to operate. The Victorian Chief Health Officer has also provided advice about the health measures that should be taken by staff and students, and we will be following these.

The purpose of these changed arrangements is to reduce the number of these students – and their parents and guardians – moving across metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire in order to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

It is important that we support families where parents and carers cannot work from home, and others who need the support that on-site provision enables.

To provide further assurance, our school, along with all other government schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, will be conducting temperature checks of all staff and students at the start of the day. If your child does have a temperature, you will be asked to collect them from school.

NEW ARRANGEMENTS

Monday 13th-Friday 17th July

Monday 13th- Friday 17th July are pupil free days for students Prep to Year 6. These pupil-free days will enable our staff to prepare for remote and flexible learning from Monday 20th July.

Camp Australia will provide a Holiday Care Program for families who need it during this week. This program is available for students where parents/carers cannot work from home and no other arrangements can be made, as well as for vulnerable students. Please book online at www.campaustralia.com.au

Monday 20th July Onwards

From Monday 20th July, our school will be moving to remote and flexible learning. More details about this program will be sent later this week.

The following students are able to attend school for on-site supervision, but will also undertake the remote learning program:

- children of parents/carers who cannot make suitable arrangements to supervise children at home, including children of teachers in government schools who are required to return to work on-site
- vulnerable students
- students with disabilities

To assist our planning, if you need this on-site program, please contact the school via email thomas.mitchell.ps@education.vic.gov.au for an application form. Students must be booked in prior to attending the onsite program so that we can arrange appropriate staffing.

If you require IT support (iPad or Laptop computer) for next week, please contact the school via email thomas.mitchell.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

The Department has a range of options for you to continue to support your students in their learning, available at the **Learning from Home** website www.education.vic.gov.au/homelearning

The latest information about coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools is on the Department of Education and Training website: www.education.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has confirmed that the use of face masks or coverings by adults or children is not recommended in schools at this time. As has always been the case, students who wish to wear face masks in school and in going to and from school may do so.

And, finally a reminder that if you, your child, or a family member develops symptoms of fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell or taste, you should get tested at a coronavirus (COVID-19) testing facility and stay home.

This is vitally important to keeping our school community safe.

If you would like health information from the Department of Health and Human Services, you can visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

We understand that this is a very stressful time for families and we will work together with you to provide a high quality education experience for your children.

Yours sincerely

John Hurley
Principal, Thomas Mitchell PS