



Williamstown North Primary School Newsletter

Number 18

22nd July 2020

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2020 Term Date
Term 2—14th Apr to 26th Jun
Term 3—13th Jul to 18th Sept
Term 4—5th Oct to 18th Dec

Respect



Resilience



Responsibility



Doing Your Best



Principal's Report

Remote Learning Update

We've had a very smooth start to the school term, with the vast majority of students settling into their Remote Learning platforms very seamlessly. We are extremely grateful to all parents and carers for the terrific assistance over the last few days to establish a supportive learning environment at home. We sincerely hope that the stronger connectedness of our Remote Learning platforms during term 3 provide an added support for all families. To this end, I would like to thank Dale Evans (Digital Technologies Leader) and Tinh Nguyen (ICT Technician) for their wonderful support over the last week to ensure families were set up with additional devices and the correct links to Google Classroom, WebEx, SeeSaw etc.

Approximately 35-40 students have been on-site over the last few days to undertake their remote learning at school. As the eligibility for this supervision is very complex, we again thank parents for the consideration and understanding that has been expressed through the many recent conversations we have undertaken on this matter.

In line with advice from the Victorian chief Health Officer, all school-based staff are currently wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing with all students and staff. Teachers and education support staff will not be required to wear face coverings while teaching/supervising, but those who wish to do so, can. Please also note that parents/carers will be required to wear face coverings whenever they leave the house, including for school drop off and pick up.

The school's leadership team will continue meet on a weekly basis in order to fine tune the school's remote learning provision. We understand the many challenges associated with remote learning and as always, invite your feedback and observations over the coming weeks. Through our positive collaboration, we can work together to ensure the best outcomes for our students; which is even more paramount during this extraordinary period.

Holiday Maintenance

Over the mid-year break, the school continued with its regular program of maintenance and upgrades. A significant amount of work was undertaken in the grounds, particularly in relation to the trees on the school site. Every six months, we inspect every tree on the grounds to ascertain the health of each tree and any pruning/maintenance needed. During our last recent inspection, concern was raised in regards to a significant elm tree near the basketball courts. The school therefore commissioned an arborist to provide a detailed report. This report was tabled at school and councillors were in complete agreement that this tree need to be removed. We have already begun discussions with our arborists around a replacement tree and so please be assured that this matter has been very carefully considered.

Last Monday morning, we were very disappointed to find the soccer goals on the greenfield had once again been badly vandalised. These goals had only just been repaired at a cost of approx. \$2000 to the school and now these repairs will



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have to be carried out again. The school remains in lockdown after hours and any groups on-site are currently in breach of the restrictions that are in place across metropolitan Melbourne. I urge any local families to contact the police over the weekend if large groups of teenagers are on the school site.

Changes to Term 3

Each week, we continue to review our planning for upcoming events as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions. Sadly, our Year 3 & 4 camping program to Phillip Island in late August has now been cancelled. We will explore whether a later date in the year can be secured for this camp. We still have our fingers crossed that the Year 5 Camp to Howqua and the Year 6 Camp to Canberra will proceed. We will of course continue to be guided by the Department of Education and Training (DET) on this matter.

Please also note that the school photos which were rescheduled to Tuesday 4th August, have once again been cancelled. We will also attempt to reschedule these again for later this term or early next term.

Thank you again to families for accommodating a late change last week to the PTS Conferences. We were eager to schedule these prior to the remote learning period. We hope you found these phone calls to be valuable; particularly in light of our move to Remote Learning this week.

This term we are still going to delve deeply into the school's programs and emerging priorities as part of our upcoming Whole School Review. A key part of the review process is the collaboration with all stakeholders, including student, staff and parents. Stay tuned for opportunities to contribute to this important process!

Hobsons Bay, COVID-19

I've had many emails from families over the last week expressing concern about the growing number of active COVID-19 cases in the Hobsons Bay area. Please be assured that we are following all guidelines stringently to ensure that the health and safety of all students and staff on-site each day is being fully supported and duly prioritised.

I can completely understand everyone's nervousness on this matter and we can reassure families that at this stage, we have had no identified cases of any COVID-19 transmission confirmed on the school site. Beyond the students attending on-site, we continue to liaise with many families on this matter as it evolves. There are strict procedural guidelines in place for all schools when managing a situation whereby a student in attendance has been confirmed as positive for COVID-19, alongside strict privacy guidelines for how schools confidentially manage the information received from families.

The key message for all school communities at present, is for the need for all of us to be pro-active and vigilant in regards to all advice received from DET and the Victorian Chief Health Officer. Hand sanitation, social distancing, face coverings, heightened cleaning regimes etc, will help to ensure we are doing everything we can at present to support our students, staff and parents.

Jim Cahill—Principal

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE

If you are unwell, please stay at home.

The greatest risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) is between adults. Please follow these physical distancing measures:

- avoid gathering in a group inside or around the school



- keep 1.5m between yourself and other adults



- avoid handshakes and hugs



- wash your hands regularly.



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE

If you are unwell, please stay at home.

Please do not enter if you have any of the following symptoms:

- fever
- shortness of breath
- flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat or runny nose.



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE

**Please do not drink directly from
drinking fountains.**

Students should bring their own
water bottle for use at school.

Taps may be used to refill
water bottle.





There are plenty of appointments available at Williamstown Town Hall and Laverton Community Centre for family **Flu Immunisations**. Follow this link to book in:

<https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/hobsonsbayimmunisation>

2020 Influenza Vaccine

Flu vaccine is now available at Council sessions. Immunisation is by appointment only and a separate appointment is required for each person requiring immunisation. New immunisation sessions will be added regularly.

If you have more than one child/person to be immunised you will need to book separate appointments, ideally one after another.

We are also asking that just **one adult accompanies their child/children to the immunisation session**. Please do not bring extended family/carers to these sessions. You'll notice that our immunisation nurses may be wearing protective items like masks, gloves and eye protectors. This is to protect staff and our community from the spread of the virus.

The flu vaccine is free for:

- children 6 months to 5 years of age
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
- people with a chronic medical illness, e.g. heart disease, diabetes, asthma
- all people >65 years

For healthy adults and children over 5 years of age the vaccine costs \$22.00 and is payable by EFTPOS at the session.

