



**ARMSTRONG  
CREEK  
SCHOOL**

13 May 2020

Dear Parent, Carers and Families,

On Tuesday morning, Premier Daniel Andrews announced that Victorian government school students will begin a phased return to classrooms before the end of May, following advice from Victoria's Chief Health Officer that it is safe for the community to do so.

Schools will commence a staged return from remote and flexible learning from Tuesday 26 May 2020.

To support all school staff to prepare for the transition, Monday 25 May will be a pupil-free day. This is important to enable the planning necessary to ensure the successful transition back to school can be completed.

The return to school will take place in two stages. This will give the Victorian Chief Health Officer and Government time to monitor and evaluate the effects that the staged return to school has on the increased movement of people and transmission within the community.

### **Stage 1: 25 May – 5 June**

In the first stage, students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2, and all students enrolled in specialist schools will return to school from Tuesday 26 May.

Remote and flexible learning will continue for all students in grades 3 to 6 until Tuesday 9 June.

As our School Community are aware, our unique enrolment provision means that students at Armstrong Creek School are enrolled under either Primary Enrolment Criteria or a Special Education Enrolment Criteria. Whilst our school places a strong emphasis on the 'inclusion' of ALL students and throughout a school day our children are actively engaged in their learning 'together', this announcement does bring some added complexity for a 'staged' return to school.

What this means is, that students in grade 3 to year 10 and enrolled under a Special Education Criteria, will also return to onsite learning on Tuesday May 26. Parents and Carers of students for whom this applies will be contacted in the next week, to discuss what a supported transition back to school looks like.

Our preference as a school would be to have all children transition back to onsite learning at the same time, but despite advocating for this I am advised that like all schools, Armstrong Creek School is required to follow the advice of the Chief Health Officer and the Premier.

During Stage 1, the existing model of on-site schooling for students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children will remain in place.

### **Stage 2: from 9 June**

All other grades and year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9 June. All students will be expected to attend school as normal.

For those students 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 that we are using 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.

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 us so we can make an appropriate plan.

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

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

To support the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent hand washing.

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. 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:

- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students;
- the way we conduct meetings with parents and carers

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/departments/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. As we have said throughout this, we are in this together and will continue to work with families and students to achieve great success despite the challenge.

Yours sincerely,



Evan Savage  
Principal