



Monday 23rd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Upwey South Primary School,

We must acknowledge that 2020 has been an interesting year, to say the least! The occurrence of a global pandemic has affected communities across our immediate area, as well as communities on a national and international level.

When reflecting upon 2020, as a school principal I am truly blessed to hold the honour of leading such an amazing school community. Admittedly, the situation with coronavirus presented our school with many new challenges, and it's okay to say that at times it was hard for everyone.

However, the situation also provided a unique opportunity for our school community to shine, as we wrapped around each other to truly live and embody our school values of:

- **Respect;** *for oneself, the environment, and the rights of others*
- **Responsibility;** *to take action and do what is right, to be kind, and to be courageous*
- **Resilience;** *to approach learning challenges with insight and enthusiasm.*

Therefore, as we look forward to the 2021 school year, our staff have a renewed focus upon nurturing the welfare of our students, whilst committing to provide academic opportunities to build upon the learnings of 2020.

A focus upon the DET priorities of Mental Health, Student Learning, and Transitions

Since returning to On-Site Learning just over six weeks ago, our teachers have worked tirelessly to provide our students with individual attention- both academically and socially-emotionally.

As a school, we have invested considerable financial resources to provide our teaching staff with dedicated hours to focus upon one-one tuition and assessment of our students. Through this commitment, we are pleased to say that as a school we should be extremely proud of the academic growth, and learner resilience, which our students have demonstrated throughout Semester Two.

Teachers are currently reporting on the achievements of each student, and are looking forward to sharing and celebrating this learning with you when we publish our Semester Two Student Reports via Compass on **Monday 14th December, 2020.**

When reading your child's report, we ask that you be conscious that with such an interrupted learning year you should be proud of your child's achievements- regardless of what the summary graphic on the report may infer. You should take the time to read the individualised comments in your child's report, and acknowledge that 2020 has been extremely challenging for some of our students.

When it comes to the anticipation of Student Reports, it is natural to feel some level of excitement, or even anxiety. You may be asking- *Did my child do enough during Remote Learning? Did I do enough to help them? Did the school provide enough support?* All of these are valid questions, and should be answered with compassion based upon the individual circumstances of each individual family across our school.

Beginning this week, our teaching staff are helping to build compassion for individual family circumstances, and will be making telephone contact with any parents/carers who we feel may need

some support with interpreting their child's Semester Two Report. We are also reaching out to provide some families with an indication as to what actions we can take as a school to provide direction for their child's learning in 2021.

As a community of learners, we should be extremely proud of each other- *inclusive of our families, students, and school staff.*

As we look forward to 2021, please refer to the information below.

2021 School Structure

A by-product of the 2020 coronavirus situation has been a shift in the dynamics of some family environments, which inevitably means that some students may be moving in and/or out of schools and neighbourhoods. As a school, we are saddened to know that some of our families are moving on in 2021 due to extenuating circumstances, and we wish them all the best of luck. However, at the same time we also have the opportunity to welcome a number of new families to our amazing school- all of whom are very excited to be joining such a vibrant and supportive school community.

In order to help our school to focus upon continuous improvement, the below structure will be in place for 2021:

Year Level	Class Structure
Foundation	2 x ~18 per class
Year One	2 x ~18 per class
Year Two	2 x ~18 per class
Year Three/ Year Four	3 x ~23 per class
Year Five/ Year Six	2 x ~ 28 per class

We have made the decision to move to an 11 class model in 2021, as this will enable the school to financially invest in a 0.6EFT teacher who will be dedicated to providing out-of-class tutoring, on a one-one and small group basis.

Our current Specialist Structure will remain in place for 2021, as we continue to proudly deliver four dedicated Specialist Programs- *Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Health/Physical Education, and LOTE-Japanese.*

2021 Staffing Structure

As a school we currently have a number of positions advertised for teaching roles in 2021. Once these positions have been secured, we will be in the position to announce our 2021 Staffing Structure.

Following the above announcements, we then expect to begin running our 2021 Transition Sessions from the second week of December. More information will be sent out shortly.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community.

Kind regards,

Damien Kitch

Principal