



ST THERESE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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16 March 2020

Update – COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

I wish to update you on how our school is responding to the impact to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

Our current focus is to:

- continue to minimise the spread of COVID-19 in our school and community
- reassure and support students, parents, guardians and carers
- minimise the impact of any change to student learning
- prepare students, staff, parents, guardians and carers for remote schooling, if necessary, where students are unable to attend school.

Remote schooling will enable students to continue their learning at home. I will provide further details concerning the remote schooling program by Wednesday, March 18. Teachers will continue to be available to assist students during the period of remote schooling.

The following additional actions are being put in place at our school immediately:

- Cancellation of the following school events:
 - Open Day Tours 17th March and 21st April
 - African Drumming for Harmony Day - 20th April
 - Box Hill drumming festival
 - ANZAC Day celebrations
 - Easter Bonnet Parade – 15th April (first day of Term 2)
- Minimisation of gatherings of students including assemblies and school activities
 - We are changing the way we run assemblies to include remote sessions via classrooms. We will run the Easter Raffle in this way and will be doing the raffle over the loud speaker.
- Staggered lunchtime and recess breaks
 - This will include Foundation – Year Two classes being split from Year Three to Year Six
- Cancellation of the following school camps and excursions:
 - I Sea I Care excursion 17th March
 - District Athletics 23rd April
 - Senior Camp 27th – 29th April
- Introduction of a visitor registration process (this does not apply to the collection of students).

Where possible, the school will reschedule activities that have been cancelled to later in the school year.

The best defence against most viruses is practising good hand and respiratory (cough/sneeze) hygiene.

Please ensure that the following key messages continue to be reinforced with your children:

- wash hands frequently with soap and water, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet
- avoid touching your face (eyes, nose and mouth)
- cover their cough and sneeze (preferably into the crook of their elbow) and dispose of any used tissues appropriately
- avoid contact with others (more than 1.5 metres from people).

Students should not attend school if they are feeling unwell and should remain at home until symptoms resolve. Appropriate medical assistance should be sought as required.

If your child becomes unwell at school, you will be contacted and requested to take your child home.

Families who are intending to take their children overseas during the school holidays should reconsider these travel plans, particularly if the travel is non-essential. As directed by the Federal Government, **all Australians must self-isolate for 14 days upon their return to Australia.**

If families must travel overseas during the school holiday period, I would appreciate prior notification of any travel plans.

During the 14 day self-isolation period, the school will provide your child with a remote schooling program to enable your child to continue their learning at home.

Further information is available from the following:

- The Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Sale website <http://www2.ceosale.catholic.edu.au/news-centre/view-article.aspx?id=6516>
- Department of Health (Australian Government) Frequently Asked Questions https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions_0.pdf
- The Department of Health and Human Service (Victoria) <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
- Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/news-and-events/latest-news/Novel%20coronavirus%20update/Pages/default.aspx>

I will keep you updated with further information as the situation changes. At the present time, school will continue to operate as usual with further adjustments to minimise the potential risk of transmission of COVID-19.

If you have any queries please contact me on 59967525 or email on principal@sttcbourne.catholic.edu.au

Regards



Michelle Bruitzman
Principal