

## NATHALIA PRIMARY SCHOOL - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS – 09/04/20

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, the start of term two will be very different from our usual practice. As advised by the Victorian Government, in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, from the start of term two all students who can learn from home must learn from home.

I have attached a document to this letter detailing the arrangements for term two that will be in place in all government schools across the state. This information is taken from the Operating Model that was sent to principals on Tuesday.

Teachers were very busy towards the end of first term planning and printing documents that will be sent home to all families for the start of term two in a week's time. The remote learning packs contain enough work for the first two weeks of school. Each pack has been designed by your child's teachers and delivers the same curriculum that the students would be following if they were attending school.

There are some suggested links to internet based sites in the packs and passwords to on-line teaching tools that the students are familiar with. If you do not have access to the Internet or a computer at home please contact the school on Tuesday and arrange to borrow a school laptop for student use. Please note this will be for student use only and traffic on the computer will be monitored through the school's security system. It is an expectation that safe internet protocols will be adhered to when using school equipment.

I will be in attendance at school during the term in regular hours but teachers will predominantly be working from home. Should you wish to contact the school you can do so by telephone or email during business hours.

Teachers will be making contact with families regularly to monitor student progress during this time of remote learning. We will be making use of the operating system "Compass" during this time and I urge parents to make sure they have this downloaded on their devices.

There is information for parents regarding learning from home at the following site:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning.aspx>

I recognise this is a difficult time for our school community and the population at large. The school will follow the advice of the Victorian Government and adhere to all recommendations to limit the spread of COVID-19. This virus does not discriminate and no one is immune.

I look forward to seeing families and students back at school engaging with one another normally once we have defeated this virus.

Stay safe and best wished to everyone.

Chris McCallum - Principal

## TRANSITION TO FLEXIBLE AND REMOTE LEARNING

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To increase physical distancing across the population and slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), children in Victorian government schools should move to remote and flexible learning and care at the commencement of Term 2.

This means that from the start of term two all students who can learn from home must learn at home.

The following operating model will apply:

### 1. ALL STUDENTS WILL BE LEARNING FROM HOME, EXCEPT FOR STUDENTS IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES

- a. Children on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. This will be available for children of parents who cannot work from home, and vulnerable children, including:
  - children in out-of-home care
  - children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm
  - children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service or mental health or other health service and children with a disability).

### 2. ON-SITE PROVISION

- a. On-site provision will be available at all government schools, but only for students in the categories listed above, for the purpose of providing continuity of teaching, learning and support.
- b. When on-site learning is provided, hand sanitiser will be available at the entry points to classrooms and education will be provided on hand hygiene. Physical distancing will be implemented in classrooms to the extent feasible and unwell students will be excluded from attending.
- c. The learning program delivered on-site will be the same as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning. Students learning on-site will be supervised by an on-site teacher but follow the teaching and learning program provided by their classroom teacher.

It continues to be the principal's responsibility to make the school-based decisions required to deliver Government education objectives in accordance with the Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2017.

### 3. HOME PROVISION

- a. The parent or carer is responsible for students' general safety at home or elsewhere.
- b. Parents and carers will be able to contact the school by telephone between the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm during the term. School representatives are accessible during these times and will respond to emails and calls either directly or through Compass. Calls made from teachers' personal phones will have "No Caller ID" noted as the caller.
- c. Teachers and support staff are not required and will not be available to students or families/carers outside these hours.
- d. All families will receive remote learning packs before the scheduled start of school on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. These will be mailed to out of town families on Thursday (09/04/20) and delivered to town families on Tuesday (14/04/20).

- e. The remote learning packs contain individual work for each student that has been planned by their own teacher. There is provision for two weeks of work in each pack.

#### 4. HOME AND ON-SITE LEARNING PROGRAMS

- a. The learning program delivered on-site will be the same as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning.
- b. The following are the daily minimum guidelines schools are expected to meet:
  - i. For students in Prep to Grade 2, schools will provide learning programs that include the following:
    - literacy activities that take a total of about 45-60 minutes
    - numeracy activities of about 30-45 minutes
    - additional learning areas, play-based learning and physical activity of about 30-45 minutes.
  - ii. For students in Grades 3 to 6, schools will provide learning programs allocated as follows:
    - Literacy: 45-60 minutes
    - Numeracy: 30-45 minutes
    - Physical activities: 30 minutes
    - Additional curriculum areas: 90 minutes

#### 5. ACCESS TO TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AT HOME

For students who do not have access to digital technologies at home, schools will loan existing devices. Families will need to contact the school on Tuesday and make a time to sign for and collect a laptop computer if your child does not have access to a computer or iPad already.

Schools will also be able to provide hard copies of learning resources in the event of an internet outage or in cases where it is not possible for students to have any digital access.

#### 6. SCHOOL BUSES FOR ON-SITE STUDENTS

In rural and regional Victoria, the School Bus Program will continue to operate for students attending school on-site.

Physical distancing guidelines will be followed on school buses, at bus interchange locations, and other shared transport services to and from school.