



Respect. Excellence. Acceptance. Community. Honesty.

Dear parents and carers,

As you would be aware, the Victorian Government has made some significant announcements in relation to arrangements for schools in Victoria for Term 3.

Based on advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, Victorian Government schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire will have specific arrangements in place for Week 1 of Term 3 as outlined below. Schools will then move to remote and flexible learning for students in Prep to Year 10 from the start of Week 2.

It is very important to note that the advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer is that schools can continue to operate. The Victorian Chief Health Officer has also provided advice about the health measures that should be taken by staff and students, and we will be following these.

The purpose of these changed arrangements is to reduce the number of these students – and their parents and guardians – moving across metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire in order to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

To provide further assurance, our school along with all other government schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, will be conducting temperature checks of all students at the start of the day. If your child does have a temperature or has any sign or symptom, you will be asked to collect them from school.

The new arrangements are set out in detail below.

Monday 13th July – Friday 17th July 2020

Monday 13 – Friday 17 are pupil free days for students in Prep to Year 10. These pupil-free days will enable our staff to prepare for the change to remote and flexible learning from Monday 20th July.

Monday 20th July onwards

From Monday July 20, our school will be moving to remote and flexible learning. This will be for all students. The following are students who are able to attend school for on-site supervision of the remote learning program:

- Children of parents/carers who cannot make suitable arrangements to supervise children at home, including children of teachers in government schools who are required to return to work on-site.
- Vulnerable students
- Students with disabilities who choose to attend on site.

As we now have further restrictions due to the seriousness of this matter, parents/carers will need to provide the school with a letter from their work place, which states that they cannot work from home and a work schedule, which coincides with onsite requests.

We will be following similar arrangements to those we put in place for remote and flexible learning in Term 2. It is a timely reminder that this will be school time and students are expected to join online learning and be available for teachers when they call. If a student does not join the Google Classroom sessions or speak to teachers over the phone, they will be deemed absent.

Learning Packs will continue to be sent home on a fortnightly basis with the first packs being ready for pick up next Tuesday July 21, between 9:00 – 10:30 am. We ask you to be patient and keep social distancing when picking up packs.

The Department has a range of options for you to continue to support your children in their learning, available at the *Learning from Home* website [education.vic.gov.au/homelearning](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/homelearning).

The latest information about coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools, is on the Department of Education and Training website: [education.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has confirmed that the use of face masks or coverings by either adults or children, is not recommended in schools at this time. However, as has always been the case, students who wish to wear face masks at school and in going to and from school, may do so.

And finally - a reminder that if you, your child, or a family member develops symptoms of a fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell or taste - you should get tested at a coronavirus (COVID-19) testing facility and stay home.

This is vitally important to keeping our school community safe.

If you would like health information from the Department of Health and Human Services, you can visit [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

I will continue to communicate with you as soon as we receive further information.

Yours sincerely,

Robyn Gregson
Altona North Primary School