

## Update Coronavirus

Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again I thank you for your flexibility and understanding during these uncertain times. After yesterday's update regarding next week's activities at our school, late last night I received another Department of Education update outlining significant decisions made in relation to the impact of coronavirus on schools. Whilst we are following advice we are also endeavouring to keep school events and routines as normal as possible. The following updates are:

**NAPLAN testing** will not proceed for 2020. The decision was made in recognition of the disruption to schools by coronavirus.

**Two additional pupil-free days** have been approved by the Minister for Education. The first will be on the last day of this term – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – and the second will be on the first day of Term 2 – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. This is to provide an important opportunity for schools to consolidate their preparations for the possibility that we will need to move at some stage to more flexible learning arrangements, including remote learning.

On the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer (the letter was attached to my previous update), **schools will continue to be open next week** (however students will not attend on Friday which is a pupil-free day). The Department of Education will increase school cleaning and increase supply of school cleaning products. We have also put extra strategies in place as outlined in previous updates regarding healthy hygiene practices. We are also trying common sense approaches to social distancing.

Whilst we remain open, we will continue to provide the full range of classroom teaching, learning and social activities that are so important for our students. With this in mind, due to the pupil free day on Friday, the plan for the **modified Easter Bonnet Parade** will now be on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March in the afternoon. The timetable as follows and *parents have the opportunity to attend their child/ren's class only*.

- 2.30pm Senior wing (grades 56A, 45A & 34A)
- 2.45pm Middle wing (grades 23A, 12A & 12B)
- 3.00pm Preps A & B

The Easter Raffle will be drawn and announced at the end of the day on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Please keep sending in Easter egg donations and purchasing raffle tickets.

Nadine will organise the **hot cross buns** to go out on Thursday at recess, so please get your orders in by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Sovereign Hill is closed, therefore the Year 5/6 Camp to Sovereign Hill camp will be cancelled. As there is a 2 year wait for vacancies we are unable to postpone the camp later in the year. If you have already given us your deposit please see Nadine for the return of your deposit.

Thank you for your support to keep things as normal and routine as possible for your children and our school efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Braakhuis

Principal