

MONDAY, 23RD AUGUST – CURRICULUM DAY

Firstly, Monday, 23rd August remains as Pupil Free (our Curriculum Day). Families have made plans for Monday of this week, which is fortunate. There is no school as organised on Monday – remote or on site.

RETURN TO REMOTE LEARNING, WITH LIMITED ON SITE SUPERVISION

From Tuesday, 24th August until Thursday, 2nd September, the following applies...

Based on advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, schools in REGIONAL VICTORIA will MOVE TO **remote and flexible learning** until **Thursday, 2nd September**. This rule will apply to the great majority of our students whom, if they can, must work from home. Teachers, Education Support staff will all be working remote and will only be on site when required to provide supervision. When they are on site, like all adults, they must present a copy of their AUTHORISED WORKER permit to attend Big Hill PS for work.

On site supervision is limited this LOCKDOWN to a few students who fit into the following categories:

- A)** Children where **both parents and / or carers** are considered authorised workers, see: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/authorised-provider-and-authorised-worker-list-0> who **cannot work from home**, work for an authorised provider and where no other supervision arrangements can be made:
- Where there are two parents / carers, both must be authorised workers, working outside the home in order for their children to be eligible for on site supervision.
 - For single parents / carers, the authorised worker must be working outside the home in order for their children to be eligible for on site supervision.
- B)** Children experiencing vulnerability, including:
- a. in out-of-home care
 - b. deemed vulnerable by a government agency, funded family or family violence service, and assessed as requiring education and care outside the family home
 - c. identified by a school or early childhood service as vulnerable, (including via referral from a government agency, or funded family or family violence service, homeless or youth justice service or mental health or other health service)
 - d. Where a parent / carer indicates that a student with a disability is vulnerable because they cannot learn from home – This applies to students enrolled in specialist schools and students with a disability enrolled in mainstream schools eg: A child who is funded under the PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND IMPAIRMENTS (PSD) PROGRAM.

Authorised worker permits for on-site supervision:

From Tuesday, 24th August, parents and carers will only be able to request on site supervision for their child/ren in **Category A** if they hold a permit as an authorised worker. If this applies to you, access to the new on site attendance form is available by calling the school during business hours on **Monday, 23rd August** or by emailing Janet.Dean@education.vic.gov.au. **To access on site, we must sight a copy of a permit (or two permits if two adults live in the home) before commencing on site supervision.**

We are following the directives to have as little movement as possible, as little mingling of students as possible etc to reduce transmission. The Chief Medical Advisor has raised concerns around transmission in children with the DELTA VARIANT – and has requested that schools SUGGEST TO FAMILIES that children who must come on site SHOULD wear a mask at all times. Again – this is suggested, not mandated. The advice is clear though – to keep your child safe, firstly keep them at home... and if you can't... ensure they wear a mask on site.

Bookings for on site supervision will be from Tuesday, 24th to Friday, 27th August. We will seek bookings for Monday, 30th August to Thursday, 2nd September on Friday, 27th August.

REMOTE LEARNING FOR THE MAJORITY OF CHILDREN

From Tuesday, 24th August, the majority of our students will return to REMOTE AND FLEXIBLE LEARNING. Your child will be set no more than 2 – 3 hours of work a day, with our focus on:

- The basics – English and Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Wellbeing
- Engagement
- Other areas of learning are included to ensure children have variety and to engage, such as Music, Visual Arts and Chinese.

Platforms will be similar to the past – with each Unit clarifying with families arrangements on Monday... ready to launch on Tuesday. If you are unsure what your child should be doing, please contact the school on Tuesday morning or your teacher via email.

It's important to ensure your child is working during periods of remote learning – they can't afford to slip behind with another two weeks (at this stage) in remote mode. We know it's hard, but collectively, we all just try and do our best for the sake of the children.

It's important to stay in touch with teachers. All emails are listed on our website, or contact the school directly so that we can help you facilitate contact. We will also enable the collection of materials on Tuesday and throughout the week – please wait for your child's teacher to advise materials are ready on Tuesday. Where possible, organise your visit to the school at an agreed time so that materials can be collected quickly and efficiently to keep everyone safe – this may be on a trestle outside the Office if the weather is fine.

UNTIL THURSDAY, 2nd SEPTEMBER – SCHEDULED SCHOOL EVENTS ARE POSTPONED DUE TO THE LOCKDOWN

All events scheduled over the next two weeks are postponed. This included the FIRST STEPS AND JUNIOR UNIT CONCERT. In the coming week, we will hopefully gain a better understanding of when we can reschedule events. If they are not rescheduled, money paid will be refunded.

The Office will be manned on Monday during normal business hours, so feel free to call 5447 7022 if you have questions. Please be patient though – it will be a busy time. Queries can also be directed to my email Matthew.Pearce@education.vic.gov.au

To conclude, for the majority, you will be preparing for remote learning at home from Tuesday until the Thursday, 2nd September. For a small few who have no options but to both work away from home, booking in for on site supervision will be your focus on Monday. Please remember, you must have authorised permits to share or provide copies to the school.

Take care and remember, we are here, even if it's remote, to try and support you OR link you to supports should you need them.

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