



Dear Parents and Guardians,

This week's newsletter will clarify some of the arrangements around returning to school, however there are still some unknowns that will be clarified closer to the day of return and shared through Class Dojo, Skoolbag, our Facebook page and emailed to families who have provided us with an email address. I have been so impressed with how messages have been communicated and have enjoyed receiving positive responses from you all so thank-you.

I am so proud of how well our community has embraced remote learning, which has enabled the children to continue learning from home. We were pleased to be able to lend out over 200 devices to families so their children could learn in the same digital format as their peers. Over the past few weeks most children had the opportunity to connect with their teacher and peers through the online format of WebEx. The teachers have reported that the children have enjoyed this type of interaction and they have enjoyed seeing your children's smiling faces.

I would like to thank the teachers for the continued efforts to keep the learning going for all children. And I would like to thank the children who put in their very best effort, completing the tasks set by the teacher to a high standard. I would also like to thank you – our parents and guardians – for your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning, supporting the children with their learning and appreciating the efforts of all staff. Your words of gratitude were very reassuring and helped keep the staff morale high.

As you would have heard in the media following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has advised that schools can begin a phased return to on-site schooling.

- In the **first stage**, students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2, senior secondary (Year 11 and 12 VCAL and VCE) students and all students in specialist schools will return to school from **Tuesday 26 May**.

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, **Monday 25 May** will be a pupil-free day. You will be required to arrange care for your child/children on this day, as no on-site supervision is available. I have contacted Extend – the Out of School Hours Program we have onsite – to see if they could be open and are waiting to hear back from them. If you think you may need a place for your child for this pupil-free day, you might like to ring them to let them know so they know how many children may need to access the service which may help them decide if it is viable for them. Their contact details are phone: 1300 366 437 or email [enquiries@extend.com.au](mailto:enquiries@extend.com.au)

- In the **second stage** of our return to on-site schooling, all other year levels will return to school from **Tuesday 9 June**. Please note **Monday 8 June** is the Queen's Birthday public holiday so there will be no school on that day.

For those students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of on-site schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which on-site schooling is required will continue for this two-week period.

All other students in these grades and year levels (Years 3 – 6) will continue learning from home until **Tuesday 9 June**.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to on-site schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan.

This same approach is being taken by all government schools in Victoria.

To support the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent hand washing.

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice. This will apply until further notice. I will provide more detail about our local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes may include:

- adjusted arrangements for drop off and pick up, including staggered school start and finish times;
- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students;
- [the way we conduct parent-teacher meetings and interviews](#)

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/departments/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom.

## **High Levels of Learning for All**

Michelle Costa  
Principal

**Have you considered online music lessons?**

**Places are still available for Term 2!**

Online lessons are still available **via live video link** directly to one of our PMI tutors, so students can learn their instrument from their own home, just like this:



Here's some feedback from one of our parents:

***"My daughter is not missing out on keyboard lessons now because they are online. Well done PMI!"***

Please enrol via our website:

[www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au](http://www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au)

Or for any enquiries, email

[admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au](mailto:admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au) or Phone 1300 362 824