

Toolamba Primary School

Toolamba PS

69-77 Wren St

Toolamba

24th March 2020

Dear Families and Caregivers,

As you are aware on Sunday evening Mr Andrews informed National Cabinet that "school holidays will be brought forward in Victoria, starting on Tuesday 24th March”. Second term will commence on Wednesday April 15th if schools are allowed to reopen after the break. This means Monday 23rd March was the last day of the school term for students. Tuesday-Friday this week have been set aside for staff to plan and prepare for a possible transition to flexible and remote learning.

Whilst packs of work will be available for **parents** to collect on **Thursday 2pm-4pm** and **Friday 8am-2pm.** There is no expectation that our students undertake online learning this week or during the holidays.

With the real possibility of some time away from school over the coming weeks, how fortunate we are to have the amazing technology we have for learning but also to reduce social isolation. We have been planning for the events of the coming weeks calmly behind the scenes to ensure that we can best meet the needs of students. The School is well equipped and with thanks to the work by our technician and committed staff, I wish to assure you that your child’s learning will continue through a combination of online and printed resources remotely.

We are able to offer at-home teaching pack options, access to resources including online books and subscriptions and e-learning. There will no doubt be a few glitches as we are on a learning curve too, but we are being courageous and stepping out a little into the unknown to endeavour to provide the best possible learning experiences for your child.

This week the school will provide care and supervision programs for our school students who are the children of essential service workers, where those families choose to send their children to school. Please phone the office if you require care and we will work though arrangements with you.

Toolamba’s communication channels are open, and we will continue to remain in contact with families throughout the holidays and keep you well informed of plans going forward after the term break. Our main form of communication will be emails, SMS, Facebook and our website. Please check for updates.

The decision whether to re-open schools after the Term 1 holidays will be determined following advice from the Chief Health Officer. We will be in a better position to advise on decisions about Term 2 in the coming weeks.

Staff have offered to supply families with their email address to be used next term so that if you have any concerns moving forward related to their child’s remote learning they can be contacted. However I must ask that you email between 8.45am and 4pm on weekdays, as they too require their personal time to be respected.

Mandy Sibio has offered to be our Student Health and Wellbeing contact so if students are feeling anxious or want to talk to a staff member Mandy can be contacted on 0491663202.

At this time, we all need to think and act with compassion. For some members of the community, the uncertainty and isolation of the coming weeks will be very stressful and as such it is important to never underestimate the power of kindness.

Sincerely,

Staff Toolamba PS