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Friday 10th April 2020

UPDATE to the letter sent via Compass on Wednesday 8th April

Dear Parents/Carers,

As communicated on Wednesday, the Victorian Government has confirmed that all schools will move to remote and flexible learning when students return for Term 2 on Wednesday 15 April.

This means that all students who can learn at home must learn from home.

This is a very clear directive by the Victorian Government based on the advice of the Chief Health Officer.

This is not an action being taken lightly and I understand it may cause you and your family concern and stress. We have been directed to do this to slow the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of our families, our staff and their families, our colleagues and our friends.

Our staff will also be working from home. All of them have been working hard to put plans in place to support the wellbeing of all our students, ensure educational equity and continuity of learning.

This is clearly going to be a challenging time for all of us. It's going to be critically important that we work very closely together in partnership to ensure that we provide the very best possible support for the ongoing wellbeing and learning of our students and your children.

On-Site Supervision- Department Directive

For a very limited number of students, On-site learning and care in **exceptional circumstances** will be available for children of parents who have **exhausted all other options** for getting supervision of their child, who cannot work from home, and vulnerable children, including:

- children in out-of-home care
- children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm
- children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service or mental health or other health service and children with a disability).

If you feel there are '**exceptional circumstances**' that would require your child/children to be supervised on school premises, please complete the attached application form and send it to the school's email address mordialloc.co@education.vic.gov.au with the heading "On site Application Form".

Please note that exceptional circumstances may vary between the primary and secondary school sector given the age of students involved.

The clear message from the Government and the Education Department is that if students **CAN** learn from home, they **MUST** learn from home. Please include in your application specific days/times. The school leadership team will consider all applications on a case by case basis and respond as soon as possible, noting that the latest DET information and application guidelines were provided late on the evening of Thursday 9 April.

A new application form will be required each week. The application must be received by Thursday 3.00pm of the preceding week so the necessary staffing arrangements can be put into place. Obviously, this is not possible for the first week of term. In this instance the application form for week one needs to be received by 10.00am Tuesday 14th April. Week two application forms need to be received by Thursday 16th April at 3.00pm. This process will then continue each week until normal classes resume.

On-site Learning Program

For the few students who meet the above criteria, the learning program delivered on-site will be the same as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning. Students learning on-site will be supervised by an on-site staff member or Casual relief teacher if none of our regular staff are able to attend our school site- but follow the teaching and learning program provided by their classroom teacher. Physical distancing measures will be in place during class time and student break times. Please note, the canteen will be closed for all of Term 2, so students will need to bring their own food.

To ensure consistency with physical distancing measures, students will not be permitted to congregate before or after school, in classrooms or in the school grounds and will be required to maintain 1.5 metres between persons as far as is practicable at all times.

I need to be clear that if your request to attend onsite application is approved your child/ children will be supervised by a range of staff and aides (NOT YOUR OWN CLASSROOM TEACHERS OR AIDES).

Remote Learning and Wellbeing

Our roles as parents and educators over the next few months will look very different to what we are used to. Our school and our community will be here to support you. Together we will be successful.

I want to take this opportunity to ask you to not stress yourself unduly about home learning. We will need to be understanding of, and responsive to developments as they occur. It is realistic to believe that many people within our community, including teachers, may become unwell over the next term and we will need to be able to factor this into how we cope with remote learning, if or when this eventuates.

If you have an urgent wellbeing issue please contact us by emailing our wellbeing team at: wellbeing@mc.vic.edu.au

Also refer to the detailed information about our wellbeing support sent out to all families via compass on Wednesday.

Access to Devices and Networks

Work is also underway to identify students who do not have access to digital technologies at home. Parents of students identified will be contacted to arrange to pick-up of loan devices. School devices will be made available on loan to these students free-of-charge to ensure no student misses out. For students who do not have access to digital technologies at home, we will be loaning some of our existing devices (iPads and Notebooks) to students free-of-charge. A loan agreement will be required to be filled out by parents. Further information about this will be provided as required.

I really do understand that this is an extraordinarily different and unusual situation for all of us and may be stressful. However, it is also really important to recognise that learning is not confined to a classroom. Children are learning from us, and with us, in everything we do, how we speak to each other, how we work and play together and how we treat each other.

Whilst things will be very different, your children will look back on this time as a unique period in which they had their family around them. Their memories will not necessarily be about the learning tasks set from the school. They may look back on this time as the time they learned to cook with you, learned to help run a household, a time they learned to set up a tent, plant or maintain gardens, learned new exercise regimes, walks and talks you had together, the books they have read or the plays and performances they created and certainly the virtual connections and chats they had with friends and family. Our children's academic, social and emotional learning will not stop just because the world around them has slowed.

"Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired and success achieved"- Helen Keller

Be kind to yourselves, Stay Safe. Stay Healthy. Stay Connected.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michelle Roberts
Principal