



JAMES COOK
PRIMARY SCHOOL

ABN 73 640 763 073

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PARENTS AND CARERS.

Dear Parents and Carers of our James Cook Community,

I want to thank you again, for all of your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning. Your support has meant that our staff has been able to continue to provide high quality teaching and learning during this challenging period.

By now you will all be aware that in response to the 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 students) and all students in specialist schools will return to school from **Tuesday 26 May 2020**.

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, **Monday 25 May** will be a **pupil-free day**. This means there will be no online learning on this day. On-site supervision will not be available for those currently attending. Staff will be preparing for the return of students.

In the **second stage** of our return to on-site schooling, all student in **Years 3-6** will return to school on **Tuesday 9 June 2020**.

For those students, in Years 3-6, who have been attending because they cannot be supervised at home, in 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 learning at home from Years 3-6 level 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.

It is important to note that changes will include:

- adjusted arrangements for drop off and pick up, requiring all students to enter and exit the school through the front gates on James Cook Drive. Students will be greeted by staff at the gate and temperatures will be taken via laser thermometers.
- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students; parents/carers are asked to remain outside the gate, preferably at street level or in your cars.
- Parents/carers are asked to observe social distancing guidelines and not congregate on the street.
- Hand sanitising upon arrival and before and after breaks will be maintained, along with adherence to the current hygiene practices.
- Students should not be sent to school if unwell.
- 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 have missed you all greatly and look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Burgess', written in a cursive style.

Anne Burgess
Principal