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School Website: [www.boolarra.vic.edu.au](http://www.boolarra.vic.edu.au)

Principal: Susan Duncan

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning.

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 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.

In the **second stage** of our return to on-site schooling, all other year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9 June.

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 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.

Important changes will include:

- School will start at 8.45am for all students. Staff will be at gates to greet students from 8.30am. Students walking or riding scooters/bikes are to use the gates at the front of the school on Tarwin Street.

- Students who travel to school by car, are to be dropped off at the front gate in the bus exchange. Parents are requested **not** to park but use the exchange for drop off so congestion is eased. A staff member will be at the gate.
- Adjusted arrangements for pick up, staggered school finish times;
  - 3.00pm students with **surnames beginning with A-L requiring car pick up.**
  - 3.10 pm students with **surnames beginning with M-Z requiring car pick up.**
  - **3.15 students who walk or ride bicycle/scooters.**
  - **Parents who are picking up students should use the bus exchange car park. Please drive to the entrance gate. A staff member will be at the gate to let your child out of the gate.**
- **Restrictions on access to the school site** for anyone other than **immediate school staff and students** – please phone the office if you need assistance;
- Students are strongly encouraged to bring drinking bottles for refilling as taps will not be used for drinking (they may refill).
- There will be no group assembly type gatherings such as Monday Morning Assembly, interschool sports, camps or excursions until further notice.
- Sandpit and adventure playground equipment will be able to be used but all students must sanitise hands before going out or back inside, as well as prior to using playground equipment.
- Students will be required to regularly wash their hands.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.
- 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.

Yours sincerely,

*Susan Duncan*

PRINCIPAL

Boolarra Primary School