



April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of TVPS Students,

I hope that you and your families are all staying safe and well as Victoria experiences Stage 3 restrictions. As you are aware, the situation regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the early commencement of the Term 1 holidays.

As you would be aware on Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup>, the Premier, Daniel Andrews, and Minister for Education, James Merlino, announced details of schooling arrangements for Term 2. I have held off emailing you until today in order to ensure that the information that I provide to you is both advice that comes directly from the DET and current; as it was only provided to principals late yesterday evening. Please read this advice below.

The Victorian Government has now advised 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.**

The DET has been very clear in its guidelines to schools:

**All students will be learning from home**, except for children on days when they are ***not able to be supervised at home*** and no other arrangements can be made. This includes children of parents 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.

*Please note: The DET advice has been explained as; if there is at least one suitable adult in the house, even if that person is working from home, then children are expected to be learning from home.*

For those families who may need to send their child/ren to school as they will be unable to be supervised at home for one or more days, a separate Compass message will be sent to all families outlining the booking process and attendance requirements.

This is not an action being taken lightly, and I understand it may cause you and your family concern and stress. Please know this step is being taken to slow the spread of the virus and ensure the health and safety of all Victorians.

Most of our TVPS teachers will also be working from home. All of them have been working hard to put curriculum plans in place to ensure continuity of learning and to support the wellbeing of all our students.

Work is also underway to identify students **who do not have access** to digital technologies at home. Devices such as laptops and tablets will be made available on loan to these students free-of-charge to ensure no student misses out. A separate Compass message will also be sent out regarding this.

*Please note: These devices are not new. They are the devices being currently used by TVPS students at school and will need to be returned at the end of this crisis.*

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 to ensure that we provide the very best possible support for the ongoing wellbeing and learning of our students and your children.

The attached factsheet, [DET – Parent Information Sheet](#), provides ways you can support your child during this transition.

The Department of Education and Training's Learning from Home website also provides information and resources for parents and carers:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/learning/Pages/home-learning.aspx>

Further information regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated as the situation evolves:

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

Thank you for your support during this time.

Yours sincerely,

***Alison Rees***

Principal