



Kilberry Valley Primary School  
P.O. Box 126 HAMPTON PARK 3976

PH: 9702 8688

16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### **CORONAVIRUS**

You will be aware from constant news reports of the emerging outbreak of novel coronavirus, COVID- 19, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic reflecting widespread increasing transmission of the virus globally.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) continues to work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to plan for and respond to the likely impact on schools.

Some schools have closed as instructed by DHHS and DET due to confirmed COVID-19 cases within their schools.

**Our school has had no confirmed COVID-19 cases and therefore we are to remain open until we are advised otherwise.**

The Australian Government has advised that **we need to stay calm and stay informed. Parents can refer to the Department of Health and Human Services statement on School Closures in Victoria.**

[https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/department/CHO\\_advicetoschools\\_16\\_March2020.pdf](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/department/CHO_advicetoschools_16_March2020.pdf)

### **WHAT OUR SCHOOL IS DOING**

The Department of Education and Training has consulted with Victoria's Chief Health Officer and Department of Health and Human Services to provide advice to schools.

Due to the pandemic, our school has had to make a number of decisions that were not made lightly. We appreciate your understandings and support as we attempt to do our part to protect our school community.

- **All excursions and camps have been cancelled or postponed until further notice.** Including the School Leaders- Leadership Day, Whole School Fun Run, Harmony Day and the Grade 4 Excursion to the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens. These may be rescheduled at a later date and credits will apply.
- Staff have been briefed on advice from the Department of Education and the action we are taking at school.
- Staff are aware of symptoms that are consistent with possible coronavirus.
- Staff will reinforce with students ways of protecting against infections by:

- practising good hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene,
- covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing with a tissue, or coughing into your elbow,
- disposing of tissues into a bin and then washing your hands afterwards,
- washing your hands regularly, after using the toilet, and before eating.

**I require any families who have returned from overseas as of midnight, 15<sup>th</sup> March, to contact the school.**

### **Quarantine guidelines**

We ask all families to please ensure that you **keep your child home if they are showing any signs of a cold or flu**, or any other infectious illness, and seek medical advice as appropriate.

In the event that your child fits into either of the following two categories, please ensure that you quarantine your child immediately, and contact both DHHS and the school immediately. Please ask to speak with myself.

#### **A. Is a confirmed case of COVID-19**

- B. Has been in close contact of another person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days. "Close contact" is defined by DHHS as someone who has had at least 15 minutes of face-to-face contact with a confirmed case, or shared a closed space with someone for more than two hours with a confirmed case.**

### **Student wellbeing**

Due to the rapidly evolving situation, some students may be experiencing anxiety. We are here to support them to the best of our ability and capacity. If your child experiences significant anxiety or feels overwhelmed with this situation, and you require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our Student Wellbeing Leaders. If you have not already done so.

### **Good Hygiene Practices**

As per advice from DHHS, all parents, staff and students are strongly encouraged to maintain effective hygiene practices at all times.

1. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing with a tissue, or cough into your elbow.
2. Dispose of the tissue into a bin, and then wash your hands afterwards.
3. Wash your hands regularly, using soap and running water, including after using the toilet, and before eating. Dry your hands with disposable paper towel or hand dryer.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For up-to-date information, please see the Department of Health and Human Services website: [Information for the public - novel coronavirus](#)

***The Department of Education and Training will provide me with further information if the situation changes, and I will keep the school community updated as required.***

Kind regards,

Corey Fleming  
Principal