

30 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you once again for your support and understanding during this period of Remote Learning. Here are a few quick updates from me:

### **PARENT SURVEY**

Thank you to the 82 parents and carers who responded to the survey I issued after the first week of Remote Learning. It was encouraging to receive so much positive feedback (thank-you!) as well as constructive ideas for improving our provision of Remote Learning. I have summarised the main themes emerging from the survey responses and shared this with our staff. Where possible, we are trying to refine our approaches to Remote Learning to address the areas for improvement suggested through the survey. It's been encouraging to hear from so many parents and guardians (through the survey and other forms of feedback to us) that their children are engaging well with their online lessons. Nevertheless, I also acknowledge that a small number of parents have expressed concern about students not engaging in Remote Learning. As a school, we are trying our best to follow-up with these students and their families; however, I also urge concerned families to contact the school if they require support.

### **RECORDING OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE WHILE LEARNING REMOTELY**

The Department of Education and Training (DET) still requires us to submit daily student "attendance" records during this period of Remote Learning. I have therefore asked teachers to mark rolls on XUNO for each class. Teachers have been instructed to mark students "present" if they can see them engaging in online learning for that particular class or if they are aware that the student has an approved arrangement to complete work "offline" and they are keeping up to date with their work. I am aware that there is "margin for error" with this approach, but we are doing our best to keep a record of which students are engaging with school each day. You will be able to see your child's attendance record on XUNO. Please let us know if you believe we might have made a mistake so that we can amend our records if necessary. I also ask parents and guardians to please leave a message on our Absence Line (5479 1150) or email us ([castlemaine.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:castlemaine.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au)) whenever your child is ill or unable to participate in their Remote Learning for any other reason. We will then acknowledge this as an "Explained Absence" on your child's attendance record.

### **A SPECIFIC ISSUE WITH GOOGLE MEETS**

We have had occasional reports of students engaging in Google Meets (i.e. class video link-ups) from their beds, in pyjamas and in other unusually casual forms of dress. I will remind all students via a XUNO message later today that they should always be set-up in a suitable workspace (the best chair and desk space available to them at home) for their Remote Learning and dressed appropriately for their Google Meets. Could I please ask parents and guardians to reinforce this expectation at home?

### **ACTIVITIES CANCELLED OR POSTPONED THIS TERM INCLUDING IMMUNISATIONS**

Unfortunately, many of the special events we had planned for Term Two (e.g. Open Day, Parent-Teacher Interviews and Sports Carnivals) can no longer go ahead. We have updated our School Calendar (accessible through XUNO) to reflect these changes. We are currently working with the Mt Alexander Shire Council to re-schedule the Year 7 and 10 Immunisations (originally planned for April 22 and 29), and will advise you when these rescheduled dates are confirmed.

Again, thank you for your support this term. If there is anything else we can be doing to support you and your family, please contact us to let us know.

Yours sincerely

Paul Frye Principal