

**PO Box 378**

**Robinvale**

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23rd March, 2020

Dear parent/carer,

The Premier of Victoria has announced that school holidays will begin as of Tuesday 24th March, 2020. Therefore, Monday 23rd March (today) is the last day of school for this term.

These measures are necessary to provide Victorian school teachers with time to prepare for remote learning as well as help reduce the risk of infection and slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Victorian community. These interventions are known as ‘transmission reduction,’ or ‘physical distancing’ measures. These are particularly important in reducing the spike of infections and protecting our elderly and those with chronic diseases or pre-existing medical conditions.

Foundation to Year 6 children of essential service workers and Foundation to Year 12 children who are identified as vulnerable, will be able to attend a care and supervision program at the school from Tuesday 24th March.

This includes children who are:

* Foundation to Year 6 children whose parents work in a health service, hospital, supermarket, service station, bank, pharmacy and grocery distribution.
* Foundation to Year 12 children in out of home care
* Foundation to Year 12 children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm.
* Foundation to Year 12 children identified by the school as vulnerable, including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness service, mental health service or allied health service.
* Foundation to Year children of parents who believe they work in essential services and are requiring care and supervision.

There is no obligation for students who are children of essential workers or students who are vulnerable to attend school this week. However, we do have an obligation to ensure we provide a care and supervision program for these students, if it is needed.

At this stage, Term 2 for Robinvale College students will begin on Thursday 16th April. Although, please be advised that the situation is rapidly changing, and this may change. If the school is advised to move to remote learning, then we will be providing work for students to complete via Compass, as the main platform. Hard copy materials will be provided to students who do not have internet access at home. These will be available for students / parents to collect from the front office, in Term 2.

For your part, we need you to self-care and remind your children about the importance of self-care and good hygiene. Here are the facts from the school’s perspective:

* No staff member at Robinvale College has been reported as infected with Coronavirus.
* No student or family member from Robinvale College has been reported as infected.
* The school only remains open for Foundation to Year 6 students, whose parents are identified as working in essential services or those identified as vulnerable children in Foundation to Year 12. If you are unsure if this applies to you, please call the front office on 5026 3704.
* Robinvale College staff are now working on plans to deliver online content and homework plans in the event of a school closure / remote learning.
* **If students are feeling unwell, they need to let a staff member know and be directed to first aid, in the front office, where parents/carers can be notified to come and collect them.**
* We are closely monitoring the situation and reacting accordingly when things change – and then letting you know.

We will use letters home, Facebook, Skoolbag, Compass, website and our school newsletter as our main forms of communication, so please keep checking them. Can I please ask you to check that we have your updated contact phone numbers so that urgent SMS can be sent to you also. Please call the front office on 5026 3704, if you did not receive the SMS on the 22nd March.

Please check the Department of Health and Human Services, coronavirus section, for updates

**What we need you to do, is to remain calm and educate your child/ren with the facts, this includes:**

Keep washing your hands with soap and water when you go to a bathroom. It might be a good idea to buy a small bottle of hand sanitiser, if you can find them in the supermarket – just in case.

Self-isolate at home if you feel flu-like symptoms occurring and inform the school if your child needs to remain at home. Please don’t jump to the conclusion that you have the virus. Just keep calm and let the medical authorities do what they are set up to do best.

If you are feeling unwell, keep thinking about others by keeping a ‘social distance’ from them. It might feel unnatural but is the best thing to do right now. The elderly and sick are high risk, so let’s take care of each other. ‘social distancing means that we try to keep a 1.5 metre distance from others.’

These are interesting times, but we can work together to make the best of the situation. We are not in panic mode – we are in planning mode. Smart people keep calm and think their way through things.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the College, on 5026 3704.

Kind regards,

Sara Broster

Principal