

18th September 2020



HARTWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents,

"HARTWELLNESS WEEK"

I hope you have enjoyed the last week of school! I've really enjoyed being involved in some of the virtual incursions, working with the guest artists, making breakfast with Signora and of course our songs and sleepover! I know the children have enjoyed the variety in learning across the week and this has been particularly beneficial to everyone's health and wellbeing.

TERM 4 OPERATIONS

As you are aware from Premier Andrews' announcements, students and staff will begin the return to onsite schooling next term. It is important to be aware of the first two weeks and the organisation:

5–9 October (first week of Term 4)

- remote and flexible learning will continue for all students
- on-site supervision for children of permitted workers and vulnerable students will continue to be provided, consistent with existing guidelines.

From 12 October (second week of Term 4)

- students in Prep to Grade 2 will return to full-time on-site schooling. The existing remote learning program will not continue for these year levels
- remote and flexible learning will continue for all students in Grade 3 to Grade 6
- on-site supervision will remain available for students in Grade 3 to Grade 6 who are the children of permitted workers and vulnerable students.

This will continue until a date is set for the return of all students to on-site learning, based on health advice.

(Attached is the 'Staged return to on-site schooling' from DET for further information).

I am expecting to receive an updated School Operations Guide in the second week of the school holidays. At this time I will be able to send out onsite attendance forms and information and update you with any further information or advice.

Our focus for the children next term is 'health and wellbeing', 'learning' and 'transitions'. The Department of Education along with schools have identified these three areas as critical to ensuring that students are well-equipped to move into the 2021 school year with confidence and positivity. I understand that there may be some concerns about the next school year and encourage you to have a conversation with your child's teacher, Pip, Adrian or myself next term.

In the first week of next term we will send further information for the return to school and provide you with any updates as the term progresses. We are looking closely at school activities such as Prep transition and Year 6 graduation to gauge what might be possible and I would like to assure you that in some shape or form these events will be going ahead.

PLANNING FOR 2021

As previously mentioned, during the last two terms we have continued to offer virtual tours to our families for Prep 2021. This has been well received and I am confident we will have four prep grades next year. On that note, if you are aware that your child/children may not be at Hartwell next year please can you communicate this as soon as possible, thanks for your help with this.

CAMP AUSTRALIA – HOLIDAY PROGRAM

If you require holiday care and are a permitted worker under the current guidelines, Camp Australia is running a program during the holidays should you wish to access this. Please contact them for further information and questions about attendance etc.

LASTLY THANKYOU... we are all too aware of how challenging this year has been and the impact this has had on our everyday activities. We have continued to pivot between onsite and offsite learning, learn new hygiene practices, develop excellent skills as virtual learners and personally I have learnt the value of an 'R' number! I cannot thank our community enough for the support you have given to the Hartwell staff as we have managed and implemented a considerable number of changes and the many kindnesses that have been given to us since the beginning of the year. I am incredibly proud of our teachers, integration aides, administration staff, and the extra teachers who have helped with onsite learning in the last two terms. In particular I have been impressed by our children, their flexibility, dedication to learning and giving their very best during online.

Whilst unconventional, it has been very rewarding to be part of such a connected community and I thank everyone for being so supportive and considerate during this time.

Thank you again for your continued support, I hope you enjoy the holidays.

Kind regards,

Lisa

Lisa Banks
Principal

USEFUL LINKS:

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

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