



# NEWSLETTER

Term 4  
October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Exceptional Educational Experiences

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

School council meeting via WebEx	Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Public Holiday	Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct
School camp 15 MC – grade 3-6	Mon 26- Thur 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct
School camp 15 MC – Prep - 2	Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> – Thur 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Whitfield Cup for students	Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct
Curriculum Day – pupil free	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov
Cup Day Public holiday	Tue 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov
School review panel day	Thur 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov
School council meeting via WebEx	Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Last day for students	Thur 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec

### **Principal's message for term 4**

Dear parents

On behalf of our school, I want to say a big thank you to all our students and parents for your continued resilience and support throughout this year. I know remote and flexible learning has not always been easy, but through our collective efforts, our students have continued to make valuable progress in their learning. You can be confident that our school will support any student who has fallen behind to catch up.

Term 4 is important for every Victorian student, and our teachers will strive to deliver high-quality learning for everyone. Our focus for Term 4 is on making sure that every student is supported in their wellbeing, learning and transition needs.

The Victorian Government has outlined the staged return to on-site schooling for all students as part of its gradual roadmap towards reopening.

### **Term 4 on-site schooling arrangements for students.**

Following advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has released a staged approach for students to return to on-site schooling.

The purpose of the plan is to get students back in the classroom as soon and as safely as possible without putting at risk all that has been achieved through the period of restrictions to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

For our school, this means that all students were able to return at the start of the term ☺

Outside school hours care and vacation care is available to students attending school. Please text or call the OSHC mobile **0448 298 467** to make a booking.

### **Health and safety measures**

The Term 3 remote and flexible learning arrangements were put in place to significantly reduce the movement of more than one million students and their families across Victoria, to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Thanks to you and your family for contributing to this on behalf of our school community.

This term we will continue to have in place strong measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community. This includes restricting parent access to school grounds and continued emphasis on hand hygiene and physical distancing where possible.

Please give particular attention to reducing the risks associated with congregation at school gates and taking steps to contribute to physical distancing around the school.

As your children return to face-to-face learning, please be assured we will be focused on three key priorities in Term 4:

- Mental health and wellbeing

Our highest priority will be the wellbeing, particularly the mental health, of every student and member of staff. This means effectively mobilising all available resources to support our most vulnerable students and enabling staff to access the relevant support services.

- Learning and excellence

Some of our students have thrived in the remote and flexible learning environment, others have maintained their learning progress, and some have fallen behind, despite their best efforts and those of their families and teachers. Our priority will be supporting both those who need it to catch up and those who have progressed to continue to extend their learning.

- Transitions

We will make every effort to ensure successful transitions for children moving from kindergarten into Prep, the Grade 6s moving into Year 7.

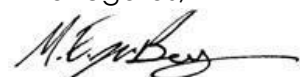
We know some families are worried that their child may have to repeat a year due to the disruptions of coronavirus (COVID-19). There is little evidence to support the benefits of repeating a year to catch up. Instead, schools will use teaching strategies that draw on the best

evidence available to help students meet their learning needs.

Parents, families and carers can be confident that the best option for almost every child is to stay with their peer group, whether that is moving from kindergarten into Prep, moving from Grade 6 into Year 7 at secondary school, or students moving up any year level in between.

Our school, working with you, has shown it can be flexible and adaptable in responding to the challenges of coronavirus (COVID-19) and will continue to meet student needs as we look towards the end of the 2020 school year and ahead to 2021.

Kind regards,



Mark van Bergen (Principal)

### Mini golf course

Students returned to school on Monday to see that the mini golf course has been completed! The six holes are a great challenge with four par two holes and two par three holes.



### Camp is back on 😊

Great news, we have been able to re-schedule the camp for our whole school at the Outdoor School – 15 Mile Creek Campus. We have been able to utilise a vacancy that has opened up from a school not able to attend due to Melbourne lockdown. We are able to go as one school (not interacting with other schools) and operating within the COVID-19 camp guidelines. The dates of the camp are Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Grade 3-6 students will be for all four days, the Prep – 2's will be from Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup>.

Pete & Amy from the camp came to the school last term to help create the program with the older students and discuss the changes they have had to make. Camp permission notes and medical forms were sent last term (before the

lockdown), if you have returned your form already, you don't need to re-do. We have only sent forms to those we have not received. Please return these to the school A.S.A.P.

Grade 3-6 students will need to be dropped off at the camp (692 Benalla-Whitfield Rd, Greta South), between 9:45am -10am. The camp will begin at 10am on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

Prep – 2 students will need to be dropped off at the camp on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October at 9am.

ALL students will need to be collected at 1pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

\*\*Prep students have the option of staying overnight on Wednesday or being collected Wednesday evening and returned on Thursday. Please let Dianne or myself know of your intentions and please contact us if you would like to discuss any aspect of the camp.

### Now taking enrolments for 2021

This is a notice to families with children starting school in 2021 that the school is now taking enrolments.

Enrolment forms are available on the school website [www.whitfieldps.vic.edu.au](http://www.whitfieldps.vic.edu.au) If you would like us to send you a hard copy in the mail, please contact the school or email your request. The school website also has plenty of information for parents about our school.

Traditionally we have commenced our orientation program in the second week of November. We are working through the current COVID-19 restrictions and advice for schools, (which may change before the second week of November)!

At this stage it is looking like Miss Fedlmann will be able to visit the Moyhu Kindergarten to meet students and we may be able to have small groups of kinder children on-site at school, (but with no mixing with our current students at this stage). Hopefully things continue to improve and our 'normal' transition program may be possible, which comprises of four sessions (9am -1pm) and a final 'all day' session on the 8<sup>th</sup> December.

We will provide the most up to date advice on the situation regarding transition activities, but the key is to have your child's enrolment form completed and submitted to the school by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Please contact the school if you need any assistance or have any questions.

## Every day counts



Remember to text 0428 298 286 or call the school 57 298 286 by 9am if your child will be absent.

### EVERY DAY COUNTS – school attendance

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

#### Remember...

\*Phone the school **5729 8286**,

\*Phone or text the School **0428 298 286**,

\*Email [whitfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:whitfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

\*Or supply a **note** before the absence.

The school must be informed of all absences by 9am. Same day reporting of absences legislation means that if your child is absent and we haven't received notification, the school must then contact the parents regarding the absence. It really helps us here at a small school if we don't have to chase up absences during the teaching day. Thank you ☺

### Whitfield District Primary in the Border Mail (pg8)

Seeing friends the highlight as Whitfield students return to school

Janet Howie Coronavirus

f t e s A A A

CLASSES RETURN: The Heenan siblings, Kody, 9, year 3, and Ellie, 5, prep, are pleased to be back with the rest of the Whitfield District Primary School students. The school resumed on-site learning on Monday. Picture: MARK JESSER

Children at a small North East school enjoyed catching up with classmates face to face again on Monday.

## Students happy to learn together again.

**Children at a small North East school enjoyed catching up with classmates face to face again yesterday.**

The 35 students at Whitfield District Primary School started term four together as part of Victoria's staged return to on-site learning this month.

"It was a great day," principal Mark van Bergen said.

"We asked kids at the end of the day what their highlights were and most of them were seeing friends, playing in a different space to what they normally do. Remote learning probably highlighted just how important it is learning together, how kids learn off each other. They're just incidental interactions and I think we take them for granted."

Mr. van Bergen praised the school's teachers and families for their efforts during both COVID-19 lockdowns. All students were kept home and parents fitted remote learning in and around their jobs, farming and other commitments.

"They approached it with positivity and giving it their best, they've done a tremendous job," the principal said. Article written by Janet Howie.

## COMMUNITY NOTICE



Dear Hot Shot Families,

Tennis is to commence again, starting Thursday 15th October depending on numbers, with some restrictions in place. Coach and all adults to wear a mask, everyone to sign a register, hand sanitiser to be used and NOT more than ten players on a court and of course social distancing.

Would each family email or ring me if your children would like to do coaching or hot shots so I can organise Doug to come - 57 298 337 or [sheppard@netc.net.au](mailto:sheppard@netc.net.au)

It would be Thursday night straight after school and we would need 10 to do coaching to make it worthwhile for him to come out to Whitfield. Please try and bring your own racket but we can wipe our own rackets if you are unable to have your own racket. We will not try for this Thursday as it is supposed to be very wet, but if you could have your names into me by this Thursday the 8th, Doug is ready to come to Whitfield.

I hope you have been coping with the lock down and I look forward to catching up with everyone when we commence again. We are looking forward to being almost normal again and having some organised exercise and fun.

Regards, Reta and Pam

**COMMUNITY NOTICE**

# This is a COVIDSafe school

This school has a COVIDSafe Plan to maintain the safety of all staff and students during Term 4.

The four pillars of the COVIDSafe Plan are:

 Reinforcing COVIDSafe behaviours	 Creating COVIDSafe spaces	 Promoting COVIDSafe activities	 Responding to coronavirus (COVID-19) risk
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The available evidence suggests that the risk to staff and students remains low when recommended health and safety strategies are followed and that schools do not pose a greater risk of infection than other locations.

For detailed information visit:  
[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)



## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE

**If you are unwell, please stay at home.**

The greatest risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) is between adults. Please follow these physical distancing measures:

- avoid gathering in a group inside or around the school
- keep 1.5m wherever possible between yourself and other adults



- avoid handshakes and hugs
- wash your hands regularly.



For detailed information visit:  
[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)



## Are you wearing your mask correctly?



For detailed information visit:  
[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)



### 3 WAYS TO STAY SAFE WHILE YOU'RE OUT



If you have symptoms, stay home.

STAYING APART KEEPS US TOGETHER

Visit [vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS](http://vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS)

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