

*'Every Child by Name and Need'*

## Final newsletter for Term 1:

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Dear families,

This final week of Term has been quite an interesting time for us all. Instead of farewelling students on Friday, we are instead saying good-bye today, unsure of when school *at school* will begin again. I would like to thank all our families who have been in conversation with me over the past 2 days for the friendly, respectful, compassionate manner in which these difficult conversations have been had. Whilst the additional week of holidays may come as a surprise to many, the opportunity to reconnect with our families and spend time together is a real positive. This latest newsletter is quite a short update, but I hope it provides some clarity around some events and actions related to school.

### **Resumption of school after Term 1 holidays:**

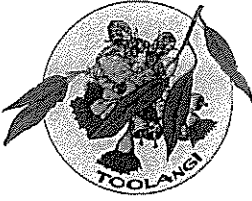
The latest correspondence from DET is that school will resume for students in Term 2, from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Further information about how education will be delivered (onsite or virtual) will be available closer to the beginning of Term 2.

### **Care and supervision for children with parents/caregivers who are essential service workers:**

All DET schools will provide care and supervision from Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March for children who have parents employed as *essential service workers* (health workers, police, emergency services etc). If any Toolangi Primary School families identify as *essential service workers*, please speak with Andrew to arrange care and supervision at T.P.S should you need it.

### **Library books:**

All our students have now borrowed books from our library and are taking home a number of books they may like to read between now and when we resume. Please keep a tab on these books so they can come back to school next term.



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**School website:**

The school website has been updated and now includes links to online sites and learning resources such as podcasts, citizen science projects and children's news. Any feedback would be appreciated.

**Online learning feedback for Senior class:**

Attached to the newsletter is an online feedback form for families of students in the senior class. Please mail back to school when complete. The earlier we receive this feedback, the earlier we can make plans to support families with online learning needs.

**After-School Activities:**

When we return to school at some stage in Term 2, we will resume the after-school activities, which will occur on a Wednesday afternoon. I recognise that this might not suit all families, however it was by far the most popular choice amongst the school community.

**Tess:**

Tess will be heading into surgery tomorrow morning, and I know all our staff and families will be thinking of her. We look forward to seeing Tess back at school next term.

**Conversations with students around current health crisis:**

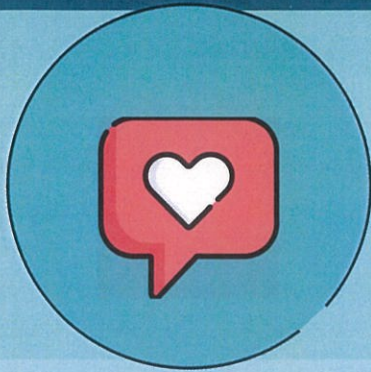
This week we have attached an informative document from the World Health Authority with information on how we might have conversations with children about COVID-19. Many of our families are already having conversations about the current situation, and the information provided may be of some use to those unsure of how to proceed with a discussion with children.

Tracey, our chaplain is also available families who might like to access support. She can be contacted via email at: [Jones.Tracey.T@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jones.Tracey.T@edumail.vic.gov.au)

*Please continue to communicate with one another and look out for each other. The messenger app is a fantastic tool for sharing information between families. I am always available on my mobile, so please get in touch should there be anything you need. Take care, Andrew*



# Helping children cope with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak



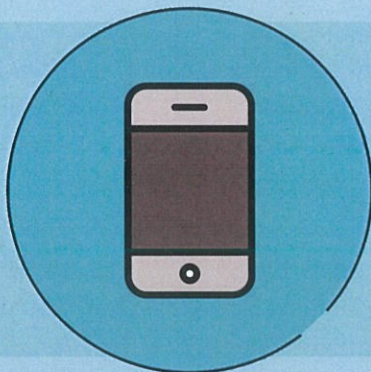
Children may respond to stress in different ways such as being more clingy, anxious, withdrawing, angry or agitated, bedwetting etc.

Respond to your child's reactions in a supportive way, listen to their concerns and give them extra love and attention.

Children need adults' love and attention during difficult times. Give them extra time and attention.

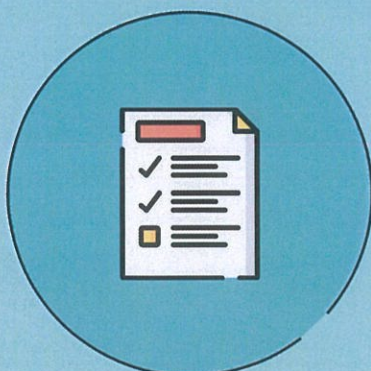
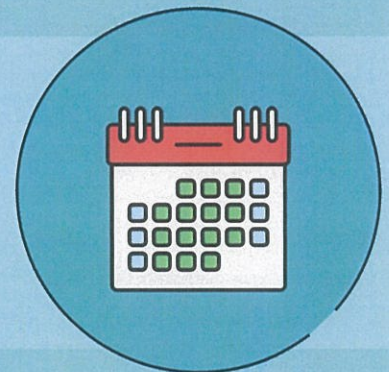
Remember to listen to your children, speak kindly and reassure them.

If possible, make opportunities for the child to play and relax.



Try and keep children close to their parents and family and avoid separating children and their caregivers to the extent possible. If separation occurs (e.g. hospitalization) ensure regular contact (e.g. via phone) and re-assurance.

Keep to regular routines and schedules as much as possible, or help create new ones in a new environment, including school/learning as well as time for safely playing and relaxing.



Provide facts about what has happened, explain what is going on now and give them clear information about how to reduce their risk of being infected by the disease in words that they can understand depending on their age.

This also includes providing information about what could happen in a re-assuring way (e.g. a family member and/or the child may start not feeling well and may have to go to the hospital for some time so doctors can help them feel better).

