



Dear Parents,

First and foremost, I would like to thank our wonderful community for your continued support during this interesting time. I feel truly fortunate to have had the support of so many families over the last couple of weeks. I would also like to thank our wonderful staff who have worked tirelessly to support the learning and wellbeing of our young people.

The decisions from the Premier of Victoria will take effect tomorrow. A summary of the impact on our school is below:

- School Holidays begin from the 24th of March.
- Students will return on the 15th of April (Wednesday) with the possibility that this will be an online learning model. I will confirm this once I know more.

We are currently facing unprecedented times. The staggering level of uncertainty is having an effect on all of us. I call upon our community to read my words, as I believe we all need to demonstrate leadership in this situation. Please, I implore each and every one of you to look out for one another. One of the strongest and most impressive aspects of our wonderful Ararat community, is its inherent culture of support and genuine willingness to look out for each other. Now is the time to continue this. Your neighbours, the elderly, friends and family all deserve a regular check in. Our retail workers, school staff, hospital staff and law enforcement are all working tirelessly, so please, treat them well. Your children will be looking to you for inspiration during times of anxiety; please make sure that you model great behaviours as it is an opportunity for them to learn how to act in the face of adversity.

Our school is to provide care and supervision for children of essential services workers over the next four days, between the hours of 9am and 3:20pm, if parents require. Examples of essential services may include health, police, corrections, youth justice and emergency services workers.

If you fall into any of the above categories and require care and supervision of your primary school aged child, please contact me on ryan.oliver@education.vic.gov.au to discuss. I apologise for getting this information out to you late, but I had only received it late today.

Please note that the YMCA OHSC is not operating over the school holiday break or for the remainder of this week. This has already been communicated to families who had enrolled.

In the event that our school moves to an online learning model, we feel we are adequately prepared to support the learning of our students. Further communication about how students can access learning opportunities will be sent out if the need arises. We have spent the last week organising and trialling different innovative ways to support learning. Please be assured that despite the 'school closure', we are committed to continue to support our families going forward.

Once again, I would like to convey my deepest appreciation to our families for your continued patience and understanding. It has certainly helped.

I hope that you're able to enjoy some family time over the next couple of weeks. Please check our Facebook page for regular updates regarding schooling.

Please feel free to email me at any time, if you have questions or concerns.

ryan.oliver@education.vic.gov.au

I will be at school for the next four days and am contactable on 03 5352 1253

Warm Regards,

Ryan ☺