



# Norris Road State School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you would already be aware, there has been significant news coverage regarding the opening of school following the summer vacation period. While the Premier has indicated the possibility of an extension to the school holidays, Principals have not as yet, received any official communication from the Department of Education regarding arrangements for the beginning of the school year. I wish to reassure you that, as soon as we have information regarding any arrangements for the beginning of the 2022 academic year, that I will share this as quickly as possible with you. At the end of 2022, you were emailed our COVID-19 Term 1 Plan. This plan can be found on our website for your reference. Please be aware that our plan may change as we become responsive to changing conditions and directions from the Department.

I know that this is an anxious time for parents, and you are probably worried about the health of our children as you await their turn to be immunised. I know many of you may be concerned about the safety of your child returning to school, or the safety of vulnerable or older family members should COVID-19 be spread within your homes. I also know that many of you are probably thinking about how you will care for your child should holidays be extended and you try to balance work, study or care arrangements. I know this is also exceptionally difficult for families where a parent is an essential worker, a single parent, caring for other family members, have limited support, have a child with a disability, or just trying to juggle working at home with child care. As a full-time working parent of two teenage children, I understand and am also experiencing many of these concerns. This is a time to be kind to yourself as a parent and remind yourself that you are doing the best you can under stressful, uncertain and unpredictable times. The best investment you can make right now, is in ensuring your mental health is as strong as possible so you can lead your families through this latest challenge and reduce your children's anxiety. Kids need to know the "adults have got this" so they can confidently navigate their own fears and worries.

Please be reassured, that should we revert to remote learning again, we will continue with our learning grids, which will focus primarily on revision and short activities that can be covered over short time frames throughout the day, so you can also manage the other competing priorities of work and care. Should we progress to an extended holiday or remote learning, it's important for our whole school community to remember that this situation, while stressful and uncomfortable, is temporary, and will pass in the foreseeable future. From us, you can be reassured that our approach will be compassionate and pragmatic in terms of expectations regarding what parents can realistically achieve at home. It's also important to remember that a delay of the start of the school year by a week or so or a short spurt of remote learning, is unlikely to cause any significant delay in your child's academic development. As a community, we have worked through school closures, extended holidays and remote learning a number of times, and I believe we can do so again!

With kindness,

Melissa Burke  
Principal