

# BULLETIN



East Bentleigh  
Primary School

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Term 1 / Week 7 : 12th Mar 2020

**SCHOOL VISION:** East Bentleigh Primary School provides a rich, inviting, child-focused environment ensuring that all students feel safe and stimulated. Our students are able to achieve their full academic, creative and social potential, equipped for the challenges of lifelong learning. Students develop into healthy and confident individuals, actively contributing to the world in which they live.

**At East Bentleigh Primary School we are committed to child safety.**

Hello everyone,

### COVID-19 Update

The world-wide situation regarding the Coronavirus continues to evolve and change daily, sometimes even multiple times a day! Over recent weeks I have been sending parents the latest information as it comes in. I will continue to do this. Rest assured that we are monitoring the situation and will pass on any relevant information in a timely manner.

Whilst we have not had any formal advice regarding school closures at this stage, this is a realistic possibility, so as a team we all planning for this possible eventuality at school. At this stage, the Year 5 camp scheduled for the first week of Term 2 will go ahead.

To ensure efficient communication of any changes to 'usual' arrangements it is vitally important that all parent contact details (especially email addresses) and emergency contacts are up to date should we need to advise you of any future changed arrangements. Any changes should be communicated to us as soon as possible.

Whilst not wishing to add to a 'panic' response I would ask, that if your child is unwell, I'd appreciate them not attending the school, so as not to risk any illness of any sort to spread as we currently have a number of students with compromised immune systems attending our school. I have been grateful of the self-isolation of the very small numbers of families who have been overseas at the beginning of the year.

What our health authorities keep advising us is that the virus is believed to affect elderly people worse than younger people and those with immune deficiencies or on medical treatment such as chemotherapy, (this may pose an issue for grandparents caring for younger children).

At school we are already reinforcing the need for personal hygiene and hand washing - which is the best known preventative at this stage. Everyone can protect against infections by practicing good hand and respiratory hygiene.

Here are some tips that we all can follow:

1. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing with a tissue, or cough into your elbow.
2. Dispose of the tissue into a bin and then wash your hands afterwards.
3. Wash your hands regularly using soap and water, including after using the toilet, and before eating.

Victoria is well prepared to deal with an outbreak, and the Department of Education and Training is working closely with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to plan for and respond to the likely impact on our schools. At our school we will continue to take the advice of DHHS who is the lead agency in this situation and parent health concerns should be directed to DHHS at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/information-public-novel-coronavirus>

### Purple Day for Epilepsy Awareness

A reminder that on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March (next week), we are celebrating Purple Day in order to support our students and families living with epilepsy. I encourage everyone to wear purple on this day and bring a gold coin which we will send to the Epilepsy Foundation so they can also continue to support people living with epilepsy.

Until next .....*Maria Shearn - Principal*

