

16 October 2020

Dear parents and carers,

This week marked the third start of school for 2020. The vast majority of our students had not been at school for 15 weeks and, if you take out the short return to school in Term 2, the absence is much longer.

### **Welcome back!**

The transition back to school has been relatively smooth. It was with relief that we saw you through the gates this week and I do hope that you took some time at the beginning of the week for yourselves to stop and relish in the relative calm!

We have a huge sense of admiration for the work undertaken by our families this year. Many of you aren't teachers and, somehow, you managed to facilitate that role for your children for the majority of the year. I know you put your lives and work on hold to facilitate that role and, even though they may not have said it, your kids are very grateful to you also. I'll be keeping an eager eye out to see if any of you look to start work on an education degree in coming years!

### **Return to routines**

This week, students and staff picked up old routines where they left off. While we were rightly prepared for some adjustment difficulties, we noted that the majority of students returned with ease.

A small group of students have found the transition difficult and staff are identifying and working with these students and their families to support them further.

This week most certainly highlighted those who had lost the stamina to make it through a full day at school, others who are renegotiating peer interactions and some who are figuring out how to share attention with a larger group of peers – not the focused attention they were used to at home.

After such a big week, I have no doubts there will be some tired individuals tonight!

### **Unwell students**

During this time it's crucial that unwell staff and students do not attend school. There is an urgency to put aside the concept of 'soldiering on', especially for anyone suffering from fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose or loss or change in sense of smell or taste

Children who become unwell during the school day will need to be collected and should remain at home until symptoms have resolved or medical clearance has been given.

## **Hats & Sun Protective Clothing**

Term 4 marks the beginning of another Sun Smart term and in line with the school's Sun Smart Policy we recommend that from September onwards, students wear sun-protective clothing such as:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts

At recess and lunch times from September to April, all students must wear a hat when playing outside. Students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun.

Please ensure your child brings their hat to school each day or give the office a call if you need to purchase a new one.

Here's to hoping for some positive news over the weekend and some opportunities to increase our movement in the coming weeks.

Trevor.