



STRATHMERTON

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ph: 58745295 Fax: 58745537

Email: strathmerton.ps@education.vic.gov.



**SUPPORT EACH
OTHER**



**TRY YOUR
BEST**



**ACT
SAFELY**



RESPECT

Newsletter No.31

September 17th 2020

2020 Dates to Remember

- ⇒ Friday 18th September
End of term 2.30pm finish
- Monday 5th October
Return to school Yippee!!!!!!
- ⇒ Monday 16th November
School photos

We are an
eSmart
School

Camp News for this year.

Unfortunately the Grade 5/6 camp to ADANAC has been cancelled this year due to the Coronavirus.

We are planning a trip to Beechworth, in November, along with the grade 3/4 as a replacement. The final date and details will be published in our first Newsletter in fourth term.

If for some reason the camp cannot go ahead we will refund or credit money paid towards camp.

We are sending this now so parents and carers can have plenty of notice to make payment arrangements with the office girl.



Strathmerton Pre-School

Now taking enrolments for 2021

Offering 3 and 4 year old programs

For more information

contact pre-school office: ph: 58745486

Learning Rewards

Hi everyone our Parents and Friends group have very kindly donated a gift to each child, for their hard work and persistence through remote learning.

These will be available to be picked up when you drop of packs tomorrow.

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents and Carers,

The holidays are upon us at last! Not sure yet what freedoms we'll be able to enjoy during this time, but I'm hoping the restrictions will be rolled back enough for us to travel around a little and meet with a few friends and family, just so we don't go 'stir crazy'.

I would like to express my gratitude to all our parents/carers for 'staying the course' and supporting the children with their remote learning at home, during this difficult time. Also, on your behalf, I would like to thank the staff for doing such an amazing job of consistently providing the home learning lessons every day, week in and week out.

Finally, I hope everyone has the opportunity to have some 'down time' during the holidays, to refresh and recharge, before we commence Term Four.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

Great News! All standalone primary schools are able to return to onsite learning, straight after the holidays, on **Monday, 5th October**. Therefore all Strathmerton Primary students will return together on that Monday. I know that all our staff are so excited at this prospect, and I'm sure our students and parents feel the same way.

TO REPEAT OR NOT REPEAT

Whether a student should repeat a year level at school or not, due to them underperforming, has been a question of debate for decades. This debate has come into strong focus again, following the COVID-19 restrictions and students undertaking so much 'home learning'. I know many parents/carers are concerned about their children not making enough progress during this time and are considering whether they might benefit with another year at their current year level.

Recently, I read an article written by renowned educator, Dr Helen McGrath, from the Faculty of Education at Deakin University. She has been reviewing studies conducted on this topic over recent years. The conclusions from every one of those studies is unanimous: ***Repeating a year does not improve academic performance, social competency or general behaviour. On the contrary, it creates low self-esteem and a negative attitude to school, and places students at risk of further failure, increased anti-social behaviour and dropping out of school.***

We believe we have processes/programs in place to support students who require additional assistance, to enable them to reach their potential. We also believe we can accelerate the progress of all students with a consistent, uninterrupted term of classroom teaching.

Regards,

Geoff Weppner.