

Coronavirus Response

TORRENS VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL UPDATE 7



TORRENS VALLEY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

23 March 2020

SUPPORTING PARENT DECISION-MAKING, PREPARATIONS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING, AND PRIORITISING STUDENT SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are living in extraordinary times, where things are changing on a daily basis.

Constant public debate about the merit of operating schools has been unsettling. As parents, I know you are inundated with information and have a lot of questions.

It was decided at last night's National Cabinet meeting that schools will stay open. The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) – made up of the chief health officers from each state and territory – does not support the closure of school sites. The AHPPC views schools as an essential service and strongly supports keeping them open.

In line with Government requests, Torrens Valley Christian School is open, and we are continuing to deliver classes as normal, within strict health and social distancing requirements.

SUPPORTING PARENT DECISION-MAKING

As a parent, we recognise that it is your right to choose to keep your children at home. We are seeing an increasing number of families at TVCS electing to keep their children at home and being proactive in implementing social distancing for their family. We acknowledge and recognise this choice you are making for your family.

For families who are making this choice, we suggest that you use this time to spend some quality time with your family and allow them to enjoy some relaxed time at home. Spend some time together. Don't feel pressured to do schoolwork at this point!

However, if you would like to support your child/ren educationally, we recommend that, for Primary-age students, you encourage your children to read, keep a journal, practice their spelling, play outside, kick a ball and do some simple numeracy activities. Secondary-age students may access their set coursework through SEQTA, as usual.

As our teachers refine our online distance learning, 'Torrens Valley Christian School at Home', in preparation for what may occur in the near future, please appreciate that our teaching staff are unable to prepare individual materials for your child at home at this point. We thank you for your patience and understanding in this area.

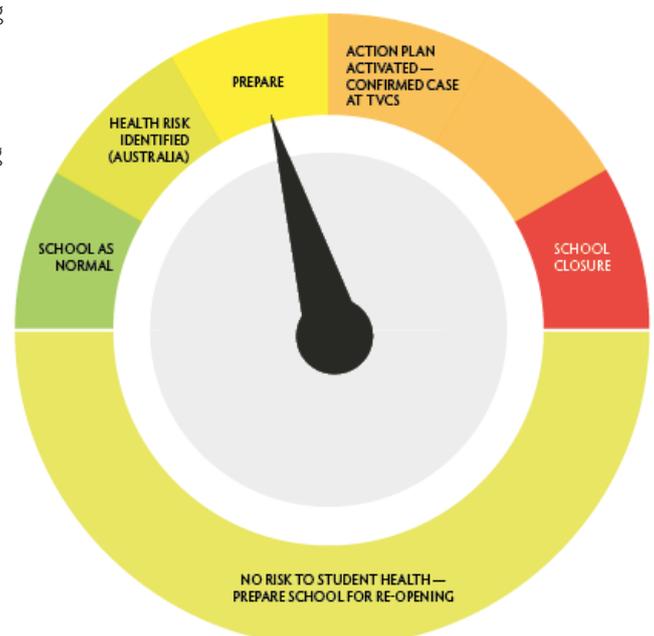
PREPARATIONS FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

Please be assured that the Teaching and Learning team are developing an Online Learning Program for both Primary and Secondary students. This will utilise our Learning Management Systems Canvas and SEQTA. Detailed information will be available to you if we are required to move to an online delivery model.

STUDENT WELLBEING

The wellbeing of you and your family is my number one priority.

Please be assured that we've increased cleaning across the site and are ensuring that good health and hygiene measures are being implemented as we work with students.



STUDENT FREE DAYS: THURSDAY 26TH AND FRIDAY 27TH MARCH

In order to facilitate the School's readiness for a move toward a flexible learning, we are requesting your support in allowing staff an intensive period to upskill and trial new technologies. Accordingly, we would like Thursday 26th and Friday 27th March to be student-free days.

Where possible, we are asking that parents keep their children at home for these days. However, the school will be open to provide supervision on site for children of essential services personnel, and families who are unable to arrange care. If you require this service, please email the school on Reception@tvcs.sa.edu.au to ensure we have appropriate staffing and supervision levels.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

As we care for the wellbeing of our community, we recognise that it is important to ensure we implement strong social distancing measures.

New Pick-up and Drop Off Procedures

For the children's safety, we are asking parents to say goodbye at the gates.

From Tuesday onwards, please pick-up and drop your children off at the gates - or in the car pick-up area.

Access to the property will be via the gate adjacent to the hall at the front entrance of the school. The rear gate will also remain open as from Tuesday morning.

Parent Assistance in Classrooms

Thank you so much for the many ways you support and assist us in our classroom areas! We appreciate your involvement and the many hours you invest.

As from Tuesday 24th March, we will be placing classroom assistance 'on hold' as we implement new social distancing parameters and limit access to our school site.

Music Tutors and Allied Health Professionals

Music Tutors and Allied Health Professionals have been asked to make alternate arrangements with families who access these services.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

Open communication is one of the things we value here at Torrens Valley Christian School. I warmly invite you to maintain dialogue with me. My door is always open and I welcome you to contact me at any time.

As we navigate these directions together, please know that you and your family are in my heart.

It is my prayer that **"out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with His power through His Spirit in your inner being so that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith.... that you may be rooted and established in love to know how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."** Ephesians 3: 16- 18

May God guide you and bless you.

In Christ,



Julie Prattis
Principal