



St Joseph's
CATHOLIC PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL BULLI
Truth and Light

25 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2022 school year. The beginning of a new school year is an exciting time as our students return to school and we welcome our newest Kindergarten students. We continue to build on our experiences of the last two years as we strive to safeguard our school community while keeping our school open, where we know the most effective learning and teaching takes place.

At St Joseph's we will operate with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health to help minimise transmissions at school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority and these measures are designed to help keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

These key measures include:

- Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits which will be provided to all students to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school.
- Wearing surgical masks indoors is required for all staff and is strongly recommended for all primary students.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing being able come onto the school site. Parents and carers are permitted for the Kindergarten transition to school. (Further information will soon be provided to the parents of Kindergarten students.)
- Keeping students in their year groups on school grounds to minimise the spread of COVID-19 across cohorts.
- Continued use of good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good airflow and ventilation in learning spaces and physical distancing practises.

A fact sheet that summarises the COVID-smart measures is available [here](#).

Additional information and other measures include:

Staffing	While this is not going to be a normal start to the school year, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow. Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than usual.
Learning delivery	Student learning will be delivered only via face to face learning at school.
Rapid antigen testing	<p>We will distribute packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff before the start of Term 1.</p> <p>The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.</p> <p>Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to: use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. You can also download the instructions through the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.</p>

	<p><i>We are currently awaiting delivery of the test kits to our school site late this week. Specific details about how and when you can pick up the RAT kits will be communicated to you as soon as possible. In the interim please note the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packs of RAT kits will be distributed to parents or carers prior to the start of Term 1 to ensure students have the opportunity to be tested before attending day 1, Tuesday 1 February 2022. • Time slots for parents or carers to pick up the packs of RAT kits will be advised to avoid congestion. • Parents and carers will need to leave the pick-up location at the school site immediately after collecting their packs of RAT kits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the TGA table with instructions for all approved RATs if needed. <p>Additional information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School staff will not be administering the rapid antigen tests to students. • RAT kits should be collected from school by a parent or carer and the tests completed at home in the morning before attending school. • Each student will receive an initial supply of 4 rapid antigen tests (RATs) to be used twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. • If a student or staff member receives a positive RAT test, they need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ record the positive RAT result through the Service NSW website or Service NSW app ○ notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR test result as soon as possible ○ follow NSW Health advice to isolate for 7 days <p>Negative results do not need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.</p>
<p>Unwell at school</p>	<p>Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay until they can complete a RAT or PCR test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student or staff member displays even mild COVID-19 symptoms, they must take a RAT or get a PCR test and isolate until they receive a negative test result. • Students must not come to school until they are symptom free, even if they get a negative RAT result.
<p>What happens when a student or staff member tests positive to COVID-19</p>	<p>Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. I will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.</p>
<p>Use of surgical masks</p>	<p>All school staff will be required to wear masks indoors. No vented or cloth masks should be worn.</p> <p>Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks indoors. Masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where students cannot physically distance themselves. Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising and playing a musical instrument.</p> <p>For more information, refer to NSW Government Mask advice.</p>
<p>Visitors on school sites and vaccinations</p>	<p>No parents, carers or visitors will be allowed on school site for the first 4 weeks of Term 1 with the following exceptions who must be vaccinated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two parents/carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or new students starting at St Joseph's. Further information will soon be provided to the parents of Kindergarten students.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers or staff operating uniform shops and canteens must be fully vaccinated. • Visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery. • Allied health partners for the wellbeing of students. <p>All staff on school sites are required to be fully vaccinated. Staff are being strongly encouraged to receive their booster shot when they become eligible.</p> <p>We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination when eligible. Find a vaccination clinic to book an appointment near you.</p>
<p>Drop off and pick up</p>	<p>Buses</p> <p>The normal school buses to and from school will continue to operate. Teachers will supervise students travelling home by bus in the usual way. Students should wear a mask on bus lines and on the bus.</p> <p>Morning drop-off</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students arrive at school between 8:30 am and 8:50 am. Parents are asked not to enter the school grounds. • The hall gate on Park Road gate will be open each morning for student entry only. A staff member will be at this gate to welcome students as they arrive at school. Please use this gate if your child needs support to return to school. • The Rowan St and Hutton Ave gates will also be open each morning for student entry only. • Students should hand sanitise on arrival at school. Sanitiser is available for student use. • On arrival at school, students will be directed to their grade group to avoid mixing among student cohorts. <p>Afternoon Dismissal <i>(Please note change of times from 2021)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afternoon dismissal will be staggered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2:45pm for students in Green and Gold Houses. ○ 2:55pm for students in Blue and Red Houses. ○ Students will be dismissed by grades to avoid mixing among student cohorts. ○ Parents are asked not to enter the school grounds. • Pick-up will be from the Park Road basketball court, Rowan Street or Hutton Avenue gates. Parents are asked not to congregate at the gates and must practise social distancing measures. Please remind your child/ren from which gate they need to be dismissed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkers and bicycle riders will be dismissed at the times above according to their house colour. They will leave the school via the basketball court area, Rowan St or Hutton Ave gates. • OSHC students will meet after school care staff as normal.
<p>Separation of Students by year/cohorts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students and parents should follow the pick up and dismissal procedures above. • Students will be separated by grade cohort on arrival at school. • Throughout the day students will stay in grade cohort groupings. • Whole school assemblies will be conducted via Zoom on a Friday. • Recess and lunch breaks will be at the usual times. All grade cohorts will play separately in different areas to avoid mixing. • Student cohorts will line up separately after breaks to re-enter classrooms.
<p>Canteen</p>	<p>Students will only be able to access the canteen via online ordering for recess and lunch. Orders will be delivered to classrooms. Information regarding the days the canteen will be open for online orders will be made available as soon as possible.</p>

Personal Hygiene	Students will be required, and reminded, to hand sanitise before entering the classroom at any time. Hand washing will be required before eating and after going to the toilet.
Physical distancing	Where possible, students will distance themselves from each other in the classroom. Students will not be sitting on the floor as a whole group and where possible desks separated. Students will also physically distance from each other to eat and line up. Physical distancing can be very challenging with young children and teachers will provide ongoing reminders.
Cleaning	Enhanced daily COVID-19 cleaning arrangements (with a focus on high-touch surfaces and high traffic areas) will remain in place.
Ventilation	We will continue to follow NSW Health ventilation guidelines stating that natural ventilation is the most effective measure. Doors and windows will be open to maximise fresh air flow in learning spaces. This approach is strongly supported by expert advice and we will continue to use outdoor settings where appropriate.

We will continue to provide updates to any changes or adjustments to our school routines as soon as is practicable.

We look forward to a successful year of learning and growth in faith for our students. As we begin the year, we can reflect on the word of Isaiah in scripture, to keep us strong and fill us with purpose.

But those who are waiting for God will have new strength; they will get wings like eagles; running, they will not be tired, and walking, they will have no weariness. (Isaiah 40:31)

In our school community may we all have the spirit and courage of St Mary MacKillop and the prayer of Margaret O'Sullivan rsj (Sister of St Joseph) in our hearts .

*Bless us with tenacious hearts,
wings to lift others up,
feet of untiring service
and a love that does not grow weary of doing good.*

Thank you for your support of St Joseph's.

Yours sincerely



Jen Charadia
Principal

