



## Return to School Parent and Carer Information

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support to both the school, and your child's learning, during the home learning period. It is greatly appreciated by all of us. A great team effort.

Following advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has advised that schools can begin a staged return to on-site schooling.

### **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May: Pupil free day**

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May will be a pupil-free day. Teachers will not provide online home learning tasks for students in Prep to Year 6 on this day. Families are advised on-site supervision will not be available, however Camp Australia will offer childcare on Monday and parents can make a booking online.

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May:** In the first stage of return to school, students at Beaumaris Primary School in Prep, Year 1, and Year 2 will commence.

All other students in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, and Year 6 will continue their online home learning program. The Victorian Government directive, based on advice from the Chief Health Officer, that **all students who can learn at home must learn at home**, continues to apply to students in Years 3-6 from May 26<sup>th</sup> to June 5<sup>th</sup>.

However, families with children in Years 3-6, who cannot be supervised at home, and vulnerable children, can apply for on-site supervision. The application for on-site supervision will be posted on Wednesday each week. Parents and carers are required to submit the application form by 10am on Friday.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June:** In the second stage of return to school, students in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, and Year 6 will return to school.

All students in the year levels returning to onsite learning are expected to attend school. Schools are not expected to provide remote learning where parents elect to keep their children at home. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to on-site schooling, your child will no longer receive the on-line learning program. Schools are not expected to offer a dual program once a year level returns to school. The same approach is being taken by all Victorian government schools.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for an extended period due to complex medical needs as advised by a medical practitioner. If your child has complex medical needs and will not be attending school, please contact the school at [beaumaris.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:beaumaris.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au), and we can provide an appropriate learning plan.

- **Enhanced Daily Cleaning Routine and Hand Hygiene**

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school cleaners will continue to provide an enhanced daily cleaning routine across all areas of the school. All classrooms will have hand sanitiser available for use by students and teachers to ensure hand hygiene practices are maintained on a regular basis.

All staff and students will undertake regular hand hygiene, particularly on:

- arrival to school
- before and after eating
- after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet
- Before and after recess
- Before and after lunch

- **If your child is unwell**

If your child is ill or feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain at home and, if you choose to, seek medical advice. If a student becomes unwell while at school, their teacher will send them to first aid room and you will be asked to come and collect them.

- **Physical distancing for students**

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain ongoing strict physical distancing of 1.5 metres inside the classroom or outside in the playground. Whilst students will be encouraged to continue to be considerate and respectful of others' space, maintaining 1.5 metres between students is not required and is not practical in corridors or during classroom activities.

- **Physical distancing for adults**

Measures need to be put in place to enable physical distancing between adults. As a result, there will be important changes to our school operations and in all schools, consistent with health advice. The changes will apply until further notice.

Parents have a responsibility to adhere to physical distancing measures of 1.5 metres when dropping and picking their child/children up from the school gate.

Since the beginning of Term 2 parents dropping off and picking up their children from on-site supervision have done so without entering the grounds or going beyond the front entrance to the school. We thank these parents for their support of the need to adhere to this routine for the health of our staff and the students. Students and parents using on-site supervision have been very understanding and respectful.

Since the beginning of Term 2 Department of Education and Training signs have been displayed on all gates indicating only students, staff and contractors are permitted on school grounds.

- **Adults on site are restricted to staff and those delivering or supporting essential school services or operations**

Restrictions to access to the school site for anyone other than essential school service contractors, immediate school staff and students will be in place. Poco Music, Music Corp, Lego Club, Wise Ones and tutors will not currently have access to the school site until further notice. Only parents and carers using before and after school care facilities will be permitted to enter the grounds to drop off and pick up their children, via the kitchen garden gate.

Some students will resume at school next week, and parents must continue to adhere to the above restrictions and not enter the school grounds or the school buildings.

Additionally, schools must now take steps to reduce the number of adults congregating outside the school at any one time, including parents and carers at peak times such as drop-off and pick-ups.

- **Staggered pick up and drop off times until further notice to enable physical distancing for adults**

To meet the intent of the health advice and enable physical distancing of parents before and after school, the following arrangements will be put in place.

Our eight entrances will provide access for students to enter the grounds and enable parents to adhere to physical distancing outside the grounds.

The Department of Education and Training has advised schools to arrange staggered pick up and drop off times and to place restrictions on access to the school grounds by anyone other than immediate school staff, students and contractors who ensure the continuing maintenance and operation of the school.

Please select an entry and exit gate to use as a family. We strongly encourage families with a child in Prep to organise their child/children/siblings to enter at a gate close to the Prep classrooms. Please ensure your child/children know to meet you at the same gate at the end of the school day. Parents and carers have a responsibility to maintain a minimum of 1.5 metres distance from others and are asked not to congregate before and after school at the gates.

Parents will say good-bye at the gate. Parents please talk to your child/children about this routine in a positive manner. Once the children enter the school they can place their bag where they usually line up and play with their friends until the bell rings at 9.00am. There will be teachers on yard duty until 9.00am.

Entry and exit gates for students:

- Kitchen Garden gate: Supervised by Year 1 and Year 2 teachers/Support staff
- Art room gate: Supervised by Year 1 and 2 teachers/Support staff
- Prep gate near the Japanese Garden: Prep S and Prep H teachers/Support staff/Specialist teacher
- Double gate near the school crossing on Herbert St: Prep L and Prep MW teachers/Support staff/Specialist teacher
- Double gate near wooden playground: Supervised by Specialist teacher/Support staff
- Sport shed gate on Edith St: Supervised by Specialist teacher/Support staff
- The single gate on Emily St: Supervised by Year 1 and Year 2 teachers/Support staff
- The double gates on Emily St: Supervised by Specialist teachers/Support staff

Gates will be supervised by staff for drop offs between 8:40am-9am, and again during pick up time from 3:15pm-3:30pm. Staff will also be on duty in the school grounds to supervise students as they arrive and depart.

We care about the health of our parents. Staggered arrangements will be in place to support community expectations and restrictions regarding physical distancing between adults. To enable this, adults must adhere to the following times when dropping off or picking up at the school gate:

- **Students with surname starting from A-L:**  
**8:40am sharp drop-off** at a gate of your choice (If you have a child in Prep S and Prep H, then we strongly encourage your child/children to enter the gate near the Japanese Garden. If you have a child in Prep L or Prep MW we strongly recommend your child/children enter through the school crossing gate on Herbert St).  
**3:15pm pick-up from the same gate.**
- **Students with surname starting from M-Z:**  
**8:55am sharp drop-off** (If you have a child in Prep S and Prep H, then we strongly encourage your child/children to exit the gate near the Japanese Garden. If you have a child in Prep L or Prep MW we strongly recommend your child/children exit through the school crossing gate on Herbert St).  
**3:30pm pick-up from the same gate.**

If your child usually makes their own way to and from school, e.g. walking or riding, they can enter the school grounds **NO EARLIER THAN** 8:40am and before 9am. They will be dismissed at 3:30pm.

Bayside Council has confirmed that our school crossings will be supervised to accommodate the staggered drop off and pick up arrangement.

If your child is going to after school care, they will be dismissed at 3:30pm.

If your child arrives after 9am, they must follow the usual procedure and enter through the front office to follow normal late sign in procedures.

- **Admin Office Area**

All adults entering the school must do so at the front office and parents and carers will not be permitted to go beyond the office area. Adults may be collecting uniform orders, dropping off lunches or collecting unwell children. Physical distancing measures will be in place, and hand sanitiser available for you to apply.

- **Meetings with Staff and Parent Teacher Interviews**

The way parent teacher meetings and end of semester interviews are conducted will look different. Following the distribution of mid-year year reports on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, parents will be invited to book a parent teacher interview time using Compass. The interview will take place by phone or using Webex during the last week of term (22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020).

If you need to speak with the Principal, Assistant Principal or your child's class teacher at other times, please contact the office by phone or email ([beaumaris.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:beaumaris.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)) to arrange a phone call or Webex meeting.

- **Drink Bottles and Drink Taps**

Students must bring their own water bottle for use at school. **Please ensure these are clearly named.** Students will not be able to drink directly from the drinking taps. Drink bottles will be refilled under supervision at sinks in classrooms. Year 5 students will fill their drink bottles under supervision using water containers in the classroom.

- **Playground and Shared Equipment**

Playground equipment can be used. However, students should practise hand hygiene before and after use. Staff will be limiting the use of shared equipment that students use. If it is used, hand hygiene processes will be in place, and equipment such as school iPads and laptops, will be wiped down after use.

- **Returning Borrowed School iPads, Laptops and Chargers**

If your child borrowed a school iPad, laptop or charger to use during the home learning period, the device must be signed back in and returned at the front office **by the parent or carer, and not by the child**, when the child resumes on-site schooling. Parents and carers can choose a time that is convenient to them to return the equipment during the school day. Devices borrowed for students in Prep to Year 2 must be returned by Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Devices borrowed for students in Year 3 to Year 6 must be returned by Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June.

- **Student's School Belongings**

When your child returns to school, please ensure they bring their book box/tub with their school belongings along with them.

- **School Assemblies**

Once all year levels have returned to on-site learning, we plan to run assemblies virtually with our school captains. We will communicate information on how to view our assembly via Compass when these begin.

- **Canteen**

School Council has decided that the school canteen will not be open for over the counter sales or lunch orders until further notice.

- **Library**

In line with community restrictions, our school library will not be running until further notice. Class teachers will borrow a set of books, which are to remain in the classroom, for students to use at school. They will not be brought home.

- **Your child's transition back to school: A social story to share with them**

We know many of our students are looking forward to returning to school and seeing their peers and teachers. We hope this will be a positive transition for them. We also understand that some students may feel apprehensive about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. Please be assured that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state. Please find a social story attached, which you may choose to share with your child to assist with the upcoming return to on-site schooling.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming our students back to their classroom.

Kind Regards,

Sheryl Skewes  
Principal

Ellen Hollowood  
Assistant Principal