



ST THERESE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

12 October 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

Re: Face masks

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has expanded the mandatory use of face masks indoors to limit the spread of coronavirus (**COVID-19**) within the population of school settings to include primary schools.

The use of face masks assists in providing an additional physical barrier between people and to help reduce community transmission of COVID-19 across all of Victoria.

Students in Grades 3 to 6 at St Therese's School will be required to wear a face mask when indoors on school premises, including when attending an Outside School Hours Care (**OSHC**) program, unless a lawful exception applies.

There are a number of lawful reasons for not wearing a face mask, including for staff and students who are unable to wear a face mask due to the nature of their disability, medical or a mental health.

At this time, there will be no requirement for students to wear a face mask whilst outdoors during school time.

Whilst not required, it is strongly recommended by the Victorian Chief Health Officer that students in Foundation to Grade 2 wear a face mask indoors at school, including when attending an OSHC program.

Parents, guardians and carers are required to supply their child(ren) with an appropriate face mask that covers the nose and mouth. Appropriate face masks include single use face masks (commonly called surgical masks) or cloth face masks made from three layers of a mix of breathable fabrics. Further information on face masks, including [what face masks you can and can't wear](#), can be accessed from the [Coronavirus Victoria](#) website.

All school staff at St Therese's School are required to wear a face mask, including whilst teaching (wherever practicable), unless a lawful exception applies, to protect the health and safety of all students, staff and the wider school community. School staff are permitted to remove their face mask when necessary for effective communication.



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Parents, guardians and carers are encouraged to inform their child(ren) of the face mask requirements, and to continue to reinforce with their child(ren) the need to keep 1.5 metres apart from other people, to wash and dry hands thoroughly and regularly, and cough and sneeze into a tissue or their elbow.

Parents, guardians and carers will also be required to wear a face mask when dropping off or picking up their child(ren) or if required to collect an unwell child(ren) from the school. If you require clarification in relation to the use of face mask at school or additional support, please contact me via email.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Bruitzman

Principal

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