

Assembly - Assembly on Friday's are held outdoors at the Bilby green shade sail when the weather conditions are conducive. If not, assemblies are presented indoors in the gallery space in Dingo and a video link is provided to the classrooms. For our indoor assemblies we gather all the student presenters, class assembly presenters and pupils of the week before assembly starts, as well as parents, carers, grandparents and community members who have come to watch.

Hearing your voice - In every newsletter in Repeated (and updated) Messages we include a feedback link. If you have a concern, suggestion or appreciation, or wish to specifically provide comment on school policies, rather than looking for the school email, you can just go to the link. This will not be the preferred option for detailed emails - the usual practice of using the school email: footscray.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au will still be the avenue, but for the concerns, suggestions or appreciations go to: <https://forms.gle/dPnAN75bFVeM1i16A>

Parent/Carer Volunteer Induction - This information has been 'pinned' on Compass so it remains easily accessible. You will currently find it pinned on your News Feed. For all new families or parents and carers who didn't complete the online process last year, if you wish to assist in classrooms, excursions or camps, or volunteer for really any other purpose at FWPS, we need you to complete the modules online. For parents/carers who did this last year, all you need to do is sign the relevant form at the office.

Change of email - We are no longer using the school gmail addresses for communication to staff. Parents will be asked to communicate directly with staff using the email facility within Compass, or email the school email address at: footscray.west.ps@education.vic.gov.au 'Attention staff member's name'. Emails sent from the Compass app will be sent directly to the relevant staff members' education email account. Please understand that staff are busy and will respond in a timely manner. If a matter is urgent, you are advised to call the school during office hours, or leave a message outside those hours.

Car park use - A reminder that the car park is open prior to 8 am and after 4 pm daily for parent access for the Their Care OSHC program. At other times, please appreciate that the car park is for staff use. Should you need to walk through to the Their Care location at Emu Corner, for safety's sake we ask that you use the pedestrian gate next to the boom gate and make your way between Koala and the Wallaby buildings past Gecko via the basketball court through to Emu Corner. Please check out the brief explanatory video at: <https://vimeo.com/777907951>

Photo Permission - When parents and carers first sign the enrolment form for school entry, they may be understandably reluctant to sign the photo permission section. We frequently use pictures and videos to share learning highlights and to maintain and foster school/home links. As we frequently include photos and videos of the students learning and playing we are regularly confronted by wonderful picture opportunities we cannot share in our newsletter and videos. We would love you to review your decision so your child can be fully involved in the life of our school. Feel free to contact your child's teacher or the office so they can make those adjustments on your behalf.

COVID information - As you will all understand, COVID continues to be transmitted within the community and remains a highly infectious illness. Consequently, it continues to be vital for families to remain careful when exposed to COVID or when demonstrating symptoms. Many of you will have heard that this year RATs, while continuing to be supplied by the state government, will be distributed by local councils from venues such as our library locations. Rapid Antigen Tests are also available for all Victorians from Council sites. People can get 2 free packs (10 tests) for themselves and 2 free packs (10 tests) for each of their household members. People with disability and their carers can get up to 4 free packs (20 tests) in line with existing RAT distribution for people with disability. Further information can be obtained at Council Rapid Antigen Test Program. Rapid antigen testing It is recommended that rapid antigen tests (RATs) are used by students and staff: · If you have symptoms of COVID-19 infection, no matter how mild · If you are a household or close contact of someone who has COVID-19 · If you are a social contact of someone who has COVID-19. The Department of Health recommends that all Victorians should report their positive RAT result to the Department of Health online, or by calling 1800 675 398. Students (or their parents) should also report a positive result to their school, either through the COVID Test portal or by phone or written notification.