



October 8, 2021

Regarding: The Staggered Return to Onsite Learning

Dear Families of Moonee Ponds West PS,

Firstly, thank you for your care and understanding throughout the last few months. It has been a challenging time for everyone, but I cannot thank you enough for the way you have supported your children and our school.

Following advice from the **Victorian Chief Health Officer**, the Victorian Government has advised that schools can begin a **staggered** return to on-site schooling for students and staff.

Moonee Ponds West PS has been granted a VARIATION on the suggested Roadmap for the staggered to school, which will enable our five F/1 classes to return together.

Important Information for all parents

- **On October 18** our five (5) Foundation/One classes will return onsite for Monday. Tuesday, Wednesday until November 5. On Monday November 1 we will be having a CURRICULUM DAY, no children will attend on this day.
- **On October 21 & 22** the Year 2 students will return on Thursday and Friday and continue these two days until November 5.
- **On October 26 & 27** the 3/4 classes will return on Tuesday, Wednesday and continue these two days until November 5.
- **On October 22, 28 & 29**, the 5/6 classes will return on Thursday and Friday and continue these days until Friday November 5.

A pictorial is at the end of this document for your fridge!

Specialist classes will resume onsite from the week beginning 18th October for those days there are classes are onsite.

Remote and Flexible Learning will continue on the days when students are not onsite. The timetables for this will be as close as possible to exiting to support routine and consistency.

Return to School Process

- **FOUNDATION/ONE:** During the **STAGGERED** return the Foundation/one students will enter and via the LENNOX street gate. Their teachers will greet and dismiss from inside the gate area.
- **YEAR 2:** During the **STAGGERED** return the Year 2 students will enter and exit through the LENNOX street gate.

- **YEAR 3/4:** During the **STAGGERED** return the 3/4 students will enter and exit through the ATHOL street gates and move directly to their classes via the external doors if in rooms 16,17,18 and via the double doors if in rooms 14, 15
- **YEAR 5/6:** During the **STAGGERED** return the 5/6 students will enter and exit via the ELGINTON street gates

Other important information

- There will be restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students. All parent access is for essential communication and should be through the General Office.
- Students over 12 are required to wear masks, other students are encouraged to wear a mask (where realistic) both inside and outside.
- Staggered entry and exit times will return. To accommodate this Dismissal will return to 3.20pm each day when students return full time on November 5th.
- If you child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.
- Students will be provided with sanitiser, and this will be used by the students under the direction of the teacher. In classroom where there is a sink, students will be able to wash their hands thoroughly after every break.
- Students to use own equipment (e.g., pencil case) and avoid any communal sharing. When using communal resources in the classroom the students will clean hands before and after use.
- Students are to bring their own water bottles and fill at convenient taps. Students are also required to bring lunch as there will be **NO LUNCH ORDERS** until November 8th
- Students are not to engage in **contact activities** or **activities where contact** is likely. This is relevant to sporting games during the breaks and any other time across the day. There will be no hand shaking, hugging or other contact by the children.
- Extra cleaning provided by DET will continue during Term 4 including daily cleaning of 'high touch' areas such as handles, doorknobs etc. Tables will be wiped by our staff and students as required. All relevant cleaning and personal protection equipment will be provided to the classrooms.
- There will be no assembly-type gatherings until further notice. Our assemblies will be 'live' via WebEx until further notice.
- There will be no staff gatherings until further notice. All meetings will be through the virtual platform of WebEx

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken based on the best health advice available to our State

The staggered return to onsite learning will be well supported by your school.

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

Yours sincerely,



Kerri Simpson
PRINCIPAL



MPW Return to School

	18th October Week 3	25th October Week 4	1st November Week 5	8th November Week 6
F/1	Mon Tue Wed	Mon Tue Wed	Wed Fri	M-F
2	Thu Fri	Thu Fri	Thu Fri	M-F
3/4		Tue Wed	Wed Fri	M-F
5/6	Fri	Thu Fri	Thu Fri	M-F



Appendix 1

Sample of the SPLIT timetable for Term 4. The staff and students were involved in split recess and lunchtimes last year. They may not like these options but they know that they are necessary, know how it works. Please note that the **drop off** and **end of day** is **EARLIER** to assist with the staggered dismissal for students, and to minimize the mass gatherings outside the school gates at pick-up times.

Arrival	F/1 & 3/4									
8:40-8:50 (F-2)	9:00- 9:50	9:50- 10:40	10:40- 10:50	10:50- 11:20	11:20- 12:10	12:10- 1:00	1:00- 1:10	1:10- 1:55	2:00- 2:50	2:50-3:20 (F/1) 2:50-3:15 (3/4)
8:50-9:00 (3-6)	1	2	Sanitise and Eating time	30min Break	3	4	Sanitise and Eating time	45min Break	5	

Arrival	2 & 5/6									
8:40-8:50 (F-2)	9:00- 9:50	9:50- 10:40	10:40- 11:30	11:30- 11:40	11:40- 12:10	12:10- 1:00	1:00- 1:50	1:50- 2:00	2:00- 2:45	2:45-3:20 (1/2) 2:45-3:15 (5/6)
8:50-9:00 (3-6)	1	2	3	Sanitise and Eating time	30min Break	4	5	Sanitise and Eating time	45min Break	

I offer this reading again as support for families as our students return to their classes.

Transitioning back to School-based Learning

Andrew Fuller

Trial->Turbulence->Transition->Transformation is the cycle of change we have all been going through.

Trial

We have all been through an incredible alteration of lifestyles. This has brought with it increased stress and times of exhaustion. While these feelings may lessen in the coming months, they will still occur, though hopefully less frequently.

Turbulence

I have outlined in recent papers the cycle of feelings that most people go through during these times:

- Fear and Bewilderment
- Anger
- Are we there yet?

These phases of reaction may repeat several times before we are through these times.

Transition

As if we haven't had enough jolts and changes already, now we all need to adapt back into in-school learning. Let's talk about how to make that transition as smooth and as successful as possible. (I look forward to writing about the opportunities for transformation soon).

Priority Number 1: The Sleep Cycle

Sleep changes are a common effect of the recent times. Dreams change, schedules shift. It is time to re-establish a more usual sleep cycle.

If you have ever experienced jet lag after travelling across time zones, you may know that it will take at least one day for each hour of time difference. For example, Melbourne is 9 hours ahead of London so as a general rule of thumb you can expect 9 days before you feel fully in the local time zone. Depending on how out of whack your sleep has been, try to give

yourself the time to re-adjust your sleep cycle before returning to school.

What sets our sleep cycle most powerfully is 'first light, first bite'. Get up at the time you would need to on a typical school day and eat breakfast soon afterwards. If you can, go for a walk outside or at least sit near a window.

Getting your sleep cycle back into sync with the school and work day improves learning and mental health

Priority No. 2- Can't wait to see you.

One of the main things that helps us all to transition back is knowing there is someone there who is wanting to see us. We all look forward to catching up with good people and having some fun. Reaching out and making contact with school friends and specific teachers sets this up.

Priority No. 3- Safe and Certain

We are all in the care of one another. There needs to be a clear understanding that we intend to keep everyone safe and well and have planned as much as we can, for this outcome.

This means we need to have a plan if someone feels unwell either physically or by feeling scared or apprehensive.

These are the times when community's need to draw together to support everyone. Consider developing a list of FAQ's (frequently asked questions) and making the answers accessible to everyone.

In these times ambiguity is our enemy and will increase anxiety. Clarity is our friend.

Priority No. 4- Restart the year

We are not looking at a resumption of the year. Most of us have had quite enough of 2020 already. What we are looking for is a whole fresh start. During the turbulence, priorities and lives have been re-structured. Social connections have changed.

The orientation we need to do now, is to form new connections and to renew our attitude towards learning and success.

Limbering up for learning will involve rekindling friendships, warming up our curiosity and stretching our imaginations. We will all need a few practice runs before we feel we can safely regain our full stride.

Priority No. 5 Plan for success

Given that the shape of the year has changed more than any of us expected, we need to plan for success. A way to do this is to assess each young person's learning strengths at www.mylearningstrengths.com. The full report can be used to establish a personalised learning plan for the next six months.

For senior students the risk is feeling that the year has got away from them and they feel they cannot succeed. Clearly this is not true. Firstly, they have all experienced the same setbacks. Secondly, there is plenty of time to catch up and succeed. Clear systems and plans will outdo slogging themselves into a frenzy or giving up.

Priority No. 6- Less Really is More

It is understandable that some people will feel in a rush to make up for the time and opportunities missed in the early part of the year. Cramming in as much as possible to make up for lost time is a compelling idea. It is also a certainty that if we do this, it won't work.

Given the upheaval of past months, rushing too much or putting too much in place too early is a recipe for exhaustion, disenchantment and

disengagement. While we are back in business, easy does it. Taking our time now to slowly rebuild a sense of success will pay off. Take it slow and make it fun! We have all had more misery than we need this year.

Priority No. 7- Review

About five weeks after the resumption of school-based learning, we need to schedule time to review the process of re-integration. This needs to be an individual check-in of the pluses and the minuses of the experiences, what people feel has worked well (as well as what hasn't) and a re-assessment of what we think is going to help in the future.

The results of this review will enable us to shift to the next phase of the year: transformation.

Over 11,000 students have benefitted from knowing their learning strengths in the past year- www.mylearningstrengths.com

Andrew is the author of **START** (School Transition and Resilience Training)- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/documents/school/teachers/health/start.pdf>

Andrew's books include:

Your Best Life At Any Age

and

Unlocking Your Child's Genius