

Full return of students: from November 1st

From Monday, November 1st:

Student pick-up and drop-off:

- The usual entry for Before and After School Care will be open each morning and afternoon for OSHC.
- All school gates will be open each morning at 8.30am and staff will be on yard supervision from 8.30am so that children can be left safely
- **In general, parents must stay outside the school fence.** Students are to be dropped at school gates or further from the school and parents should leave the area immediately.
- **Where necessary, Prep parents only, may enter the school grounds** to leave children at classroom doors. **Parents should then leave the grounds immediately.**
- Outside the school grounds, parents are strongly encouraged to maintain social distancing. We ask parents not to stay around the school and not to gather in groups.
- There will be signs on each gate to remind families.
- After school, parents should wait outside the school grounds or some distance from the school grounds for student pick-up. Where possible, remain in your car or maintain social distancing.
- Ensure your children know where you will be waiting for them after school so that you do not need to enter the school grounds.
- As for before school and where necessary, **Prep parents only, may enter the school ground to collect students** from the classroom door if there is no other option. **Nobody should enter the school grounds until the 3.30pm bell.**
- **Prep parents on school grounds must not enter classrooms, should wear a mask and must maintain social distance.**
- Older siblings can be used to collect young students and take them to parents.
- Where weather is a concern, classrooms may be opened early in the morning to allow students to enter, otherwise students should use available shelter.
- **All adults MUST WEAR A MASK to and from school and around the school vicinity**

Students in Years 3-6

- Where a car is used for pick-up or drop off, parents of children in years 3-6 are encouraged to park further from the school eg. at the football ground, over near the wetlands or near the shops, and have their children walk to meet them. This is both a good opportunity to develop independence and good exercise.
- Parents of students in years 3-6 are also encouraged to drop children off earlier (from 8.30am) and pick them up a bit later (until 4.00pm) to avoid crowding and traffic issues.

Visitors, parents and carers

- All parents and carers are encouraged to avoid the crowded pick-up and drop-off times of 9.00am and 3.30pm by dropping off earlier (from 8.30am – 8.45am) and picking up a bit later (until 3.45pm - 4.00pm)
- Essential parent-teacher meetings will be conducted remotely unless absolutely necessary.
- Parents, carers and visitors must only enter the school buildings when essential to do so and only through the main front entrance.
- All visitors, including parents and carers, must show their vaccination status before entering the building and must check in with the QR Code. The front door will be locked so parents need to check-in and call the number on the sign before entry.
- All parents, carers and visitors entering the school buildings must have had their first dose of COVID vaccine and must be double vaccinated by November 29th, 2021

Summary Information:

Morning drop off: Parents must not enter the school grounds**

***Except parents of Preps where absolutely necessary (ONE parent only)*

Yard supervision begins at 8.30am and school gates will be opened.

Parents must drop children off and leave immediately. No gatherings.

Afternoon pick-up Parents must not enter the school grounds**

***Except parents of Preps where absolutely necessary (ONE parent only)*

School gates will be opened at 3.30pm.

Yard supervision continues until 4.00pm.

Parents must pick children up and leave immediately. No gatherings.

Other school activities

- Additional staff may attend on site but parent volunteers will not be allowed to attend the school at this time.
- Out of Hours Care will be available throughout term 4 for all students.
- The school canteen will be open from Monday, November 1st.
- The U-Learn after school music program will operate from Monday, November 1st.
- Activities that involve on-site attendance by students from different educational institutions (e.g. interschool sport) can now take place.
- From Monday, 8th November, assemblies will be held in the gym but parents may not attend.
- Planned incursions and excursions can proceed and information will be sent home to families.

Face coverings in schools

- Teachers and education support staff are not required to wear face coverings while teaching, but those who wish to do so, may. Teachers should wear face coverings in other areas of the school when not teaching (for example, in the staffroom, on yard duty and when providing first aid or taking temperatures), and when travelling to and from school.
- ***It is mandatory for all students in Years 3-6 to have and wear a mask indoors unless they have a legal exception. Parents should contact the school in writing, listing the legal reason for an exception to the mandatory mask rule.***
- ***Students do not need to wear a mask outdoors.***
- ***Parents are responsible for supplying and maintaining masks. Students will be guided by teachers as to when and where mask wearing is required.***
- ***Students in Year Prep -2 are not required to wear a mask but it is highly recommended.***
- Parents/carers will be required to wear face coverings whenever they leave the house, including for school drop off and pick up. If they are travelling in a car alone, or only with members of their household, they do not need to wear a mask.
- Mask wearing has become a normal part of our daily life. Up until now, our primary students have not been required to wear a mask. The current advice has been amended by the Chief Health Officer to: ***Face masks are mandated for students in Year 3 to Year 6, when indoors on school premises***, unless an exception applies.
- Face masks are highly recommended for students in Prep to Year 2.
- You can find info about this at: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks> This will, no doubt, be difficult for some children but this is about keeping everyone safe – our children, the children of other families and our staff.
- I ask parents to talk positively about this change, even if you have reservations about it. Your reaction will impact on your child's ability to manage this change effectively. Please don't pass your concern on to your children.
- Ensure that your child has a comfortable, well-fitted mask and send them to school with it in an encouraging way. Make sure they have a couple available for cleaning purposes, clearly name the mask, perhaps even leave an extra in their school bag and help them firstly, to wear the mask correctly and secondly to understand why mask wearing is required.
- ***This is a Public Health Order and we have no recourse but to comply. If you have objections, direct them to the decision makers, not school leaders and not the teachers!***

Personal Protective Equipment

- Students who bring personal protective equipment (eg. masks) from home will be permitted to use it.
- It is the responsibility of parents to instruct children on its proper use

Possible School Closures

There is a small possibility of school closure due to a positive COVID-19 contact in the school. In this case, the school will be closed immediately whilst cleaning, sanitising and contact tracing takes place. It may be several days before the school is open to access but most recent school closures have only been for 24-48 hours. The Department of Education and Training (DET) works closely with individual schools and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to manage and respond to reported cases of COVID19 that may include exposure to the virus at a school site. DET's rapid school site closure, cleaning and contact tracing process, agreed with DHHS, reduces the risk of any transmission occurring at a school site and ensures that school sites can re-open and staff and students can return to on-site learning as quickly and safely as possible.

- Families should prepare for the possibility that, at some point, the school may be required to close to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 having attended the site. The decision to close can occur quickly and after students and staff have left for the day.