

6 October 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

Re: Return to onsite learning and health and safety guidelines

On behalf of our school, I want to say a big thank you to all our students, parents and carers for your continued resilience and support throughout this year. I know remote and flexible learning has not always been easy, but through our collective efforts, our students have continued to make valuable progress in their learning. You can be confident that our school will support every student, every day, to continue to grow and improve with their learning.

We are not using the language of 'fallen behind' or 'needing to catch up' because every child is on a continual learning progression from Kinder to Year 12 and into adulthood. Term 4 is important for every student, and our teachers will strive to deliver high-quality learning for everyone. Whether we're teaching remotely or face-to-face, our focus for Term 4 is on making sure that every student is supported in their wellbeing, learning and transition needs in vibrant and engaging learning environments.

Term 4 on-site schooling arrangements for students

Following advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has released a staged approach for students to return to on-site schooling. The purpose of the plan is to get students back in the classroom as soon and as safely as possible without putting at risk all that has been achieved through the period of restrictions to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

For our school, the following arrangements apply:

5-9 October (first week of Term 4)

- Remote and flexible learning will continue for all students
- On-site supervision for children of permitted workers and vulnerable students will continue to be provided, consistent with existing guidelines.

From 12 October (second week of Term 4)

 All Prep-Year 6 students will return to on-site schooling. Remote learning concludes for all year levels. If you wish to keep your child at home longer due to a medically vulnerable condition and you have your doctor's written advice, please contact us to discuss how we can work with you to support your child's learning if we have not contacted you already.



-2-

Valet service Drop off and Pick up

The drop off and pick up procedures are the same as our last return to onsite schooling with one adjustment. The P-2 (with older siblings) pickup time will be 3.10 – 3.25pm instead of 3-3.10pm. This means that the 3-6 (without younger siblings) pickup time will be from 3.25-3.40pm. *Parents/adults will not be able to enter the school gates at drop off and pick up times. Adults please follow social distancing rules outside the school gate and ensure there are no groups waiting together.*

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE PREFER YOU USE ALFRED ST WITH THE CURRENT CHURCH RENOVATIONS

P-2 and older siblings Morning Drop off – Please click here for visual map

Time: 8:20 - 8:35am

Option 1 - Gate on Alfred Street. Kiss and go.

Option 2 - Church Car Park. Look for the flag and cones. Staff on duty in the Church car park will direct your child into the school as you drive through and drop off. Parents/carers of Prep students may choose to park and walk their Prep child to the big school gate.

P-2 and older siblings Afternoon Pickup

Time: 3:10 - 3:20pm Option 1 - Gate on Alfred Street. Kiss and go. Option 2 - Church Car Park. Look for the flag and cones. All Prep - Year 2 students will be waiting with staff next to the Hall while parents drive through and pick up. Parents/adults will not be able to

3-6 without P-2 siblings Morning drop off – Please click here for visual map

Time: 8:35 - 8:50am for Yr 3 - 6 <u>without younger siblings</u> Option 1 - Gate on Alfred Street. Kiss and go. Option 2 - Church Car Park. Look for the flag and cones. Staff on duty in the Church car park will direct your child into the school as you drive through and drop off.

3-6 without P-2 siblings Afternoon Pickup -

Time: 3:20 - 3:35pm for Yr 3 - 6 students <u>without younger siblings</u> Option 1 - Gate on Alfred Street. Kiss and go. Option 2 - Church Car Park. Look for the flag and cones. All Year 3 - Year 6 students will be waiting with staff next to the Hall at the above times while parents drive through and pick up.

School Bus

Our school bus will resume on Monday, 12 October. I will contact all families using this service about a reduced payment for Term 4. There will need to be some contribution for this service. If there are any families who would be interested in using the bus service for Term 4, please contact the office.

Outside school hour's care and vacation care

During the staged return, outside school hours care will be available to students attending for on-site supervision and for all year levels returning to on-site schooling.

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-3-

School Uniform and water bottle

Please ensure that you send your children back to school in their correct summer uniform. Please see your level newsletters for the correct days to wear the sport uniform. Please make sure that the school hat is worn every day and all children MUST have their own water bottle. The uniform shop is closed. If you require new uniform items, you need to order and pay via the front office and items will be sent home with your child on the day.

Health and safety measures

The Term 3 remote and flexible learning arrangements were put in place to significantly reduce the movement of more than one million students and their families across Victoria, to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Thanks to you and your family for contributing to this on behalf of our school community.

As on-site schooling resumes, we will continue to have in place strong measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community. This includes staggering start and finish times, restricting parent access to school grounds, restricting visitor access, rostered playgrounds and groupings and continued emphasis on hand hygiene and physical distancing where possible. Class and neighbourhood 'bubbles' and staff 'bubbles' will ensure minimal mixing across the school and a continued emphasis on technologically driven events will replace our usual school gatherings so that we can still provide the best possible celebrations and communications.

Please give particular attention to reducing the risks associated with congregation at school gates and taking steps to contribute to physical distancing within the school. Please be patient as our valet drop off and pick up service resumes at the front car park and back gate. Please be mindful that the Parish Church renovations do not help our changed conditions either. **Patience and respect is required at all times with all staff and with other families.**

Please be assured we will be focused on three key priorities in Term 4. *Our roadmap clearly articulates this.* They are:

1. Mental health and wellbeing

Our highest priority will be the wellbeing, particularly the mental health, of every student and member of staff. This means effectively mobilising all available resources to support our most vulnerable students and enabling staff to access the relevant support services.

2. Learning and excellence

Some of our students have thrived in the remote and flexible learning environment, others have maintained their learning progress, and some will require extra support, despite their

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-4-

best efforts and those of their families and teachers. Our priority will be supporting both those who need it to catch up and those who have progressed to continue to extend their learning. We have employed extra teaching staff at all levels and we have redesigned some other educators to ensure the absolute best support for everyone.

3. Transitions

We will make every effort to ensure successful transitions for children moving from kindergarten into Prep, the Year 6s moving into Year 7, all of our Preps to Year 5's will still experience our transition program later in term 4 allowing them to have a try in their new neighbourhoods for 2021.

Parents, families and carers can be confident that the best option for almost every child is to stay with their peer group, whether that is moving from kindergarten into Prep, moving from Grade 6 into Year 7 at secondary school, or students moving up any year level in between. We know some families are worried that their child may have to repeat a year due to the disruptions of coronavirus (COVID-19). There is little evidence to support the benefits of repeating a year to catch up. Instead, schools will use teaching strategies that draw on the best evidence available to help students meet their learning needs. *Please see my letter regarding this* and contact me if you require a conversation around this.

Wellbeing resources

You are encouraged to distribute SchoolTV's Special Report: Coronavirus - The Transition Back with advice from Dr Michael Carr-Gregg to parents/carers and your school community via newsletter, on your website, portal, social media or email. Please also see the following resource; *Returning to school: 7 tips for parents/carers to help children cope (Primary)*.

Borrowed Devices

Please do not return any borrowed Chrome Books just yet. We will notify you when we need you to return these to us and sign them back in.

Our school, working with you, has shown it can be flexible and adaptable in responding to the challenges of coronavirus (COVID-19) and will continue to meet student needs as we look towards the end of the 2020 school year and ahead to 2021.

Yours sincerely

Padinta Rowbey

Patrika Rowley PRINCIPAL

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