



Wednesday 7th October, 2020

Term 4 Update – Return to face-to-face teaching and learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of our school, we want to say a big thank you to all our students, parents and carers for your continued resilience and support. We 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 any student who has fallen behind to catch up.

Term 4 is important for every student, and our teachers will strive to deliver high-quality learning for everyone. Our focus for Term 4 is on making sure that every student is supported in their wellbeing, learning and transition needs.

The Victorian Government has outlined the staged return to on-site schooling as part of its gradual roadmap towards reopening.

Term 4 on-site schooling arrangements for students

Subject to the 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:

5th–9th 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 12th October (second week of Term 4)

- **ALL students in Foundation to Grade 6 will return to full-time on-site schooling.**
- The existing remote learning program will not continue for these year levels.
- If you wish to keep your child at home longer, please contact us to discuss how we can work with you to support your child's learning.
- **Parents/Carers will be unable to enter school grounds unless for Essential Business. Please contact the office first regarding any Essential Business.**

Outside School Hours Care

Out of School Care continues to operate as per normal. To enrol students, please visit the EXTEND website: <https://www.extend.com.au/>

Tony Cerra

Principal

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Health and safety measures

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 finish times, restricting parent access to school grounds and continued emphasis on hand hygiene and physical distancing where possible.

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.

The greatest risk of transmission of COVID – 19 is between adults and as such, we will be taking every precaution necessary to avoid close contact between adults. We believe that we can maintain a safe drop off between 8:45-9:00am, however, we will be staggering our finishing times. **Unfortunately, parents/carers will need to wait outside the school gates.**

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE DROP OFF & PICK UP GUIDELINES ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE (WRITTEN IN KID-FRIENDLY LANGUAGE)

Please be assured we will be focused on three key priorities in Term 4:

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.

Learning and excellence

Some of our students have thrived in the remote and flexible learning environment, others have maintained their learning progress, and some have fallen behind, despite their 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.

Transitions

We will make every effort to ensure successful transitions for children moving from Kindergarten into Foundation, the Grade 6's moving into Year 7.

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.

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 Foundation, or moving from Grade 6 into Year 7 at secondary school, or students moving up any year level in between.

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,

Tony Cerra
Principal

Jason Kenny
Assistant Principal

Tony Cerra

Principal

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Drop off & Pick Up Points for students – STUDENT SURNAME From Monday 12th of October



START TIME: 9:00am

FINISH TIMES: **A-F - 3:05pm**
G-N - 3:10pm
O-Z - 3:15pm

PARENTS/CARERS MUST DROP OFF AND/OR WAIT OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GATES

BEFORE SCHOOL DROP OFF

- *When I get to the school gate, I have my bag on my back and I say “goodbye” to the adult who brought me to school.*

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP

- Students in my class will be dismissed at different times in the afternoon.
- When it’s time for me to go home, my teacher will say “good afternoon” and then I must go straight to the gate I need to exit from. Here I’ll meet an adult from my family who is waiting outside the school gate to pick me up.
- If the adult from my family is not waiting outside the gate for me when I get there, I stay inside the gate and wait with the teacher who is on duty.
- If I make my own way home, I must leave the school grounds once I’ve been dismissed.

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