

2022 Return to School

A Parent Guide



At the beginning of the new year, the transition back to school may be challenging for some students and their families. We have prepared some strategies and guidelines to support students returning after the summer break.

It is important that parents carefully read the information below and support the school by adhering to drop off and pick up times and procedures. The successful and safe transition back to school, for all of our students, depends on all members of our community being mindful of others and following the rules.

Thank you for your ongoing support and flexibility during the current circumstances. We appreciate your continued support.

Returning to School Information

Back to School Dates

- Students in Years 1-6 will return to school on Tuesday 1st February.
- Foundation students will commence on Tuesday 8th February.
- Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program will also restart on Tuesday 1st February.

Start and Finish Times

- Staff will be in their classrooms from 8:50am and learning will commence at 9:00am sharp.
- Parents will be able to come on-site to drop off / pick up their children and are required to follow health advice with masks and social distancing.
- To minimise crowding and additional risk of transmission, parents are strongly encouraged, whenever possible, to adopt a 'drop and go' approach.
- Older students are encouraged to walk a short distance away from the school gate to be picked up.
- Supervision is from 8:45am and no students are to be at school before this time (apart from dropping off to OSHC).

Parents Onsite

- Parents are able to come onsite to drop and pickup their children and are able to bring their child to their classroom but are strongly encourage to remain outdoors.
- Parents are encouraged not to enter buildings but if it is absolutely necessary they must sign in at the office first. In addition, parents will be required to check in via the QR code and provide evidence of their vaccination status. Parents must ensure that they wear a mask when indoors, practise social distancing and keep visiting time to a minimum.

Mask Wearing

- Face masks are mandated for students in Year 3-6 when they are indoors. Please name your child's mask. It is important that students understand the correct procedures for wearing a facemask. Refer to the link below for further information: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks>
- Face masks are recommended for students in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 when indoors. If your child is bringing a mask, please ensure it is named.
- All parents/ carers and other adults who are on site must adhere to mask wearing when indoors.

Late Arrivals/ Early Departures

- For late arrivals after 9.20am, or early pickups before 3:00pm, please come to the office first as per normal procedures.

Onsite Learning

- All students are expected to attend school onsite unless quarantining as a close household contact/ or Covid-19 positive case. DET guidelines state that schools are not expected to provide Remote Learning when parents elect to keep their children at home and this will be recorded as an absence.
- Students who have medical conditions may be exempt from learning onsite and arrangements can be made after consultation with the Principal or Assistant Principal and a medical professional.

Ventilation

- To minimise the risk of infection, classroom ventilation will be maximised by keeping windows and doors open.
- The department has provided air purifiers, which have been installed around the school in high risk areas as an added safety measure.

Other Classroom Covid-19 Safe Practices

- Hand sanitiser will be provided for all classrooms, and students will be regularly reminded to wash and sanitise their hands.
- Teachers will provide opportunities for students to access outdoor learning spaces where possible, and outdoor breaks will be provided during the day. Please ensure your child has sunscreen and a hat from the first day of school.
- To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced daily cleaning routine particularly in high touch areas.
- All students must bring their own drink bottle to school and will be able to fill them up at drink taps if required.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

- Free rapid antigen tests will be available for every student for the first 4 weeks of Term 1 2022.
- Each student will receive a 5 pack of Rapid Antigen Tests in week 1 (on their first day back) and then another pack of 5 in week 3.
- All students and staff are strongly recommended to conduct twice-a-week testing before school.
- Students and staff will do the tests at home; they only need to report their result if it is COVID-positive. They must report a COVID-positive result to:
 - the school by phone or the [RA Test Portal](#); this is so the school can support them, record that they will be absent while in 7-day isolation, and let the rest of the school community know there has been a positive case onsite and that they should monitor for symptoms.
 - the Department of Health via the [COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form](#) or call centre on [1800 675 398](#).
- Information about how to do a test and how to read RAT results, including a how-to video translated into 33 languages, is [available online](#).

Household Contact

- Students and Staff who become a household/ household-like contact must:
 - notify the school immediately
 - follow the checklist for COVID Contact:
<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist-cases>
 - quarantine for 7 days and not attend school.

Student Medication / Illness

- All medication must go to the office as per normal procedure. Please ensure all medication is CLEARLY labelled with the student's full name and class in a snap lock bag.
- All unwell students must stay home.
- If a child is unwell or showing Covid-19 like symptoms whilst at school, your child will be sent to the office to isolate away from other students and a parent/carer will be called. Please make it a priority to pick your child up as soon as possible. Testing processes will then need to be followed and students will need to stay at home until they are not presenting with symptoms.

Canteen

- The canteen will commence on Tuesday 1st February for lunch orders as well as counter sales. Please speak to your child about not sharing any food with others.

Student Wellbeing

- Some students are expected to feel nervous about returning to school, and some may show some distress, particularly at drop off time. We are anticipating this, and will be putting in place processes to support a happy return to school for all students.
- We will have a strong focus on student wellbeing and developing positive connections to their new class teacher and classmates.