



25 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a relaxing holiday break.

Start Up Interviews

Start Up Interviews and Student Support Group meetings for Years 1-12 and Specialist students have been postponed due to COVID restrictions. Classes for these year levels will commence on Monday 31st January. Prep students will have Start Up Interviews. These will be organised by the prep teachers, who will be in touch by phone with parents/carers on Friday 28th January.

Free rapid antigen tests

As we prepare to welcome students back to our school next week, the Victorian Government has announced some new measures for the beginning of the 2022 school year across all Victorian schools.

- Free rapid antigen tests will be available for the first 4 weeks of Term 1 2022.
- Twice-a-week testing will be strongly recommended for all mainstream students and staff.
- Testing 5 times a week is strongly recommended for students and staff in our Specialist Setting. This is because some students with disabilities may have greater medical implications should they get COVID-19.

The department will supply the tests to our school – you do not need to buy your own.

The department will distribute all kits to schools as early as possible. You will be notified once the test kits are available for collection.

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 our First Aid Co-ordinator, Cecilia Murdock via the school phone or email.

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. Another way to report a positive test is to 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, is available [online](#).

Vaccination requirements

- Parents and carers must have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exception (with limited exceptions) to enter school buildings.
- All staff working in schools need to be fully vaccinated or have a verified medical exception.
- COVID-19 vaccinations for students are not required for them to attend school but vaccination for students is highly encouraged. If your child has not yet had their first dose, please try to organise this before term begins. For more information on how to book a vaccination, including important information about vaccination for children aged 5 to 11, visit [Vaccination Information For Children And Teenagers](#).

Ventilation

We will also make sure that classrooms are well ventilated by opening windows and doors, to minimise the risk of infection. We have received 47 air purifiers, which will be used around the school as an added safety measure.

Vital COVIDSafe steps

Hand hygiene, mask wearing, and social distancing will continue wherever possible.

Staffing our school

I know many of you will have questions about what happens if your child's teacher gets COVID-19. We will plan to bring in extra teachers and other staff if we need them, and we will be doing everything that we can to make sure our school stays safe and open.

Other information about school operations

Our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program will also commence on Tuesday 1st February.

Feel free to contact us to clarify any concerns you may have. Please call 54617900 during business hours.

There's no doubt that this term is going to be challenging for all of us, but we are also very excited to kick off the school year and welcome back all our students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards



David Sutton
Principal