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Return to School Parent/Carer Information Term 4, 2020.

06/10/2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

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 during Term 3. 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.

We are excited to welcome our students back to face to face learning from next week. In line with current Department of Education advice there will be a number of changes and provisions made to help to keep our community safe. To ensure the safety of each student and staff member the return to onsite learning needs to be staged, just as the easing of all other restrictions is staged. We thank you for your support in implementing these.

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

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 and others have maintained their learning progress. Our priority will be supporting all children to continue their learning journey and achieve their maximum potential.

Transitions

We will make every effort to ensure successful transitions for children moving from kindergarten into Foundation and the Grade 6s 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.

Key Dates:

Monday 12th October 2020

Return to Face to Face Learning Foundation, Grade 1 and Grade 2.

Students in Grades 3-6 continue with remote learning. Onsite supervision will be available for students of permitted workers on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th October. Request forms must be completed.

Wednesday 14th October 2020

Grade 3, 4, 5 and 6 Return to Face to Face Learning.

Arrival and Dismissal:

From Monday 12th October:				
Year Level	Arrival Time	Dismissal Time	Gate	Location
Foundation	8:45- 9:10am	2:55pm	4	Gate closest to Foundation classrooms
Grade 1	8:45- 9:10am	2:55pm	1	Main Gate
Grade 2	8:45- 9:10am	3:05pm	7	Out of School Care Building
From Wednesday 14th October:				
Year Level	Arrival Time	Dismissal Time	Gate	Location
Grade 3	8:45- 9:10am	2:55pm	7	Out of School Care Building
Grade 4	8:45- 9:10am	2:55pm	5	Bike Shed
Grade 5	8:45- 9:10am	3:05pm	5	Bike Shed
Grade 6	8:45- 9:10am	3:05pm	1	Main Gate

Student Arrival and Dismissal

Please note that no students should be on site before 8:45am and when students arrive they are required to go straight to their classroom. Arrival time has been extended to accommodate students entering the school site and to decrease congestion at the gates. Parents/Carers are asked to be patient and drop their child at the specified school gate between 8:45am and 9:10am.

We request that students/families remember to socially distance and form a line on one side of the footpath to ensure pedestrians can walk on the footpath.

Additional staff will be at the gates, classrooms and in the yard to support students in getting to their classroom. We request that you share this information with your child before school returns, discussing the drop off and collection routine with them prior to their first day. Children should be collected from the same gate as their drop off and will be walked to the area by the classroom teacher at the end of the day.

Siblings can be dismissed together from the youngest child's dismissal point. Please contact your classroom teacher to ensure they are aware of these arrangements.

Please note that access to the school site for parents before and after school is not permitted this includes all outside areas including playgrounds, play spaces, basketball courts and ovals.

Health and medications:

If your child is experiencing symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID 19), **they must not attend school**. They must remain home and seek medical advice. Children should not return onsite until symptoms resolve.

Staff will contact parents/carers if they notice students who are displaying even mild symptoms and require that these students are collected from school as soon as possible. Staff may complete temperature checks on students in the sick bay as required.

If your child has had a COVID 19 test conducted and results are pending, they must not attend school.

If your child/children requires medication please ensure that you bring this to school (if you took it home over the holidays) on the days that your child/children is attending. All medications need to be clearly labelled. Medication needs to be handed in on arrival. If it is a controlled medication, please hand this to an adult on gate duty (8:45am-9am) to be taken to sick bay.

Social Distancing:

Please ensure you are following the recommended 1.5 metre social distancing rule between other adults and children other than your own children. Please do not congregate outside the school gates/ on footpath areas and once you have dropped off/collected your child please leave promptly.

Restricted Access to school site - Parents/carers will not be permitted on school site.

Do not enter the school site without calling the office (9782 1333) first. We suggest that you discuss this with your child/children so they are prepared. Please stay at entry/exit gate at arrival and dismissal times.

If you are required to collect or drop off your child/ren outside the normal times please call the school office to arrange this. It is recommended that this will take place at the main gate. Please call the school office once you are there and a staff member will assist the students to/from the gate.

Reporting an absence:

If your child will be absent please contact school office on 9782 1333 and press '1' when prompted for absence or email student name and date of absence to: absence@bfps.vic.edu.au

Hygiene and Cleaning:

To support the health and wellbeing of all our students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent hand washing. We have soap and hand sanitizer available for staff and students.

Playgrounds - Students will be allowed to use the playgrounds during recess and lunch. They must wash their hands with soap and water before and after playtimes. The playgrounds will also be wiped down by our cleaning staff regularly.

Additional cleaning - All high touch areas in the school will receive additional cleaning.

Classroom tables - will be cleaned every day and so will floors and wet areas.

All classrooms - will have access to antiseptic spray, disinfectant wipes, hand soap and sanitiser. If your child has any known allergies to any of these products please let your class teacher know.

Face masks:

Victoria's Chief Health Officer has confirmed that the use of face masks or coverings by children is not recommended in primary schools at this time. If the student wishes to wear a face mask or covering then the student will be responsible for the face mask and how it is worn/cared for.

Please be aware that staff will be wearing a mask on arrival at the school gates, please prepare your child/ren for this.

All people over the age of 12 are expected to wear a face covering when coming/going from school.

Loan Devices

When your child returns to school they should bring their loan device and charger back to the school on their first day. These will be collected and stored by the classroom teacher and used in class as required.

General Expectations:

Students are to wear full school uniform. This includes a wide brim or bucket hat to be worn during recess, lunch and outdoor sports.

Students must not drink from drinking taps/fountains, therefore they **must** bring a drink bottle for water each day. Students can refill their drink bottle at school as needed.

The school canteen will not be operating. Therefore students will need to bring adequate food each day. We are anticipating the Canteen to re-open to lunch orders only at a later date, this will be communicated once a date is confirmed.

Visitors, Volunteers and Allied Health:

No Breakfast Club, SRI, Food for everyone, external allied health staff (Speech/OT) or parent volunteers on site. For the time being these programs will not occur. DET guidance indicates we should be limiting adults on site.

Recess and Lunchtimes

Students will have normal recess and lunch breaks in their cohort groups. We will have designated play spaces during this time. Students will be reminded to wash their hands with soap and water before and after playtimes. All classrooms have sanitiser and soap provided. The playgrounds will also receive additional cleaning.

Students who do not return to school

The advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer is that it is safe for children to return to school. Unless there is a valid medical reason for a child not returning to face to face learning then they should be at school and remote learning resources will not be available at this time.

Grade 3-6 Onsite supervision – Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th October.

The Victorian Government has now advised that all schools will begin a staged return from remote and flexible learning. This means that all students in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who can learn at home must learn from home. Provision will be made for children of permitted workers, on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made.

Parents will need to complete the onsite request form by Thursday 9am for the school to organise staffing for the following week. On receipt of the request form, if the request meets the threshold of the student being on-site, the student's attendance will be confirmed with the parents/carers by email.

If you have any further questions please contact the School Office.

Kind Regards,

Elaine Lesiuk
Principal (Acting)

Banyan Fields Primary School.