



Commencement News

Term 1, 2022

Tuesday 25th of January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to the 2022 school year. I hope you have had a well deserved break and I hope that your holidays were genuinely a time to rest and relax. Family time is so important and I pray that each of you have had some quality 'down time' together.

On Sunday the Premier's media conference outlined the Victorian Government's Back-To-School plan which we all hope will support every effort to ensure students and staff are safe and that schools remain open. The plan maintains the importance of the 3Vs: Ventilation, Vaccination and Vital COVID safe steps and introduces some new measures. The main focus appears to be the use of free Rapid Antigen Tests twice per week for all students and staff for the first four weeks of Term 1. We are anticipating the arrival of these tests in the coming days, **once they arrive you will be notified of collection procedures**, further to this, Air Purifiers have finally arrived and have been installed in each classroom ready for the children's arrival.

Please note the following changes.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

Rapid Antigen Test kits will be distributed directly to schools. Parents/Carers will be informed as to how to collect these from the school in a safe and timely manner. Tests will be provided in packs of five individual tests. Parents/Carers will be asked to collect one pack for each child at the start of Week 1 and one pack for each child at the start of Week 3. Where parents/carers are unable to attend the school to collect the tests, a pack can be provided directly to a student to take home. Students will do the tests at home. Please note this procedure is highly recommended. **You do not need to inform the school of negative test results, only inform the school if your child receives a positive test result.**

If your child/ren test positive

1. Parents/Carers are to notify the school and the Department of Health system ([Rapid Antigen Tests/Coronavirus Victoria](#)) or via the coronavirus hotline at 1800 675 398.
2. Students who report a positive result must isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.
3. Where a student is a household contact of a positive case (that is, they have spent more than four hours with someone who has COVID-19 inside a house, accommodation, or care facility) they must inform the school and isolate for seven days and not attend school during that period.
4. Students are to refrain from returning to school if they remain symptomatic, unless it is known that their symptoms are caused by an underlying health condition or medication.

Please note the current omicron variant is highly contagious which means that we are likely to see a greater level of transmission. As always we want to keep all of our students and staff safe, one of the greatest strengths is our community and I know I will have your cooperation and support as we continue to navigate our way through the pandemic.

Please adhere to the following procedures when you arrive with your child/ren next week. Please note the school is guided by directives provided by the Department of Health, the Department of Education and Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS).

Reminder OLHC COVID Safe Procedures

Morning Drop Off

The school gates will now open at 8.30 am, *staggered drop off and pick up times are no longer in place*. Please continue to bring your child/ren through the double gates near the church on Nicholson Street or Miller Street. When exiting the school grounds please use the small gate on Nicholson or Miller Street as you have done so previously. If children arrive after 9.00 am they are to enter the school building via the office and Parents/Carers must sign each child in via the school passtab. Parents/Carers are welcome to attend our outside morning assemblies but must socially distance and wear masks.

Afternoon Pick Up

There are markings around the perimeter of the Northern and Middle Yards as well as through the centre of the Middle Yard that are spaced at 1.5 metre intervals and we ask that Parents/Carers continue to use these while waiting. The direction of traffic will be in reverse

to that in the mornings with Parent/Carer entry through the small gates and families exiting through the double gates on Nicholson Street and Miller Street.

Face Masks

All adults and staff are required to wear a mask unless a medical exemption applies. Students in Year 3 to Year 6 are required to wear face masks when indoors on school premises, unless an exemption applies, exemptions must be in writing. It is also highly recommended students in Prep to Year 2 wear face masks when at school.

All Visitors

Visitors to school are limited to essential school services and operations. To support contact tracing, all visitors must scan the QR code at the office in accordance with the school's COVID Safe Plan and present their vaccination certificate.

Social Distancing

Social distancing between adults will continue. This will apply to staff while working on-site as well as parents at drop off and pick up times. While waiting for children at the end of the day please use the appropriate markings indicating where adults can stand, this will reduce congestion.

Extended and Increased Cleaning Arrangements

Additional cleaning of high touch surfaces is to continue to occur throughout the day to ensure that risks of transmission are reduced for high-touch surfaces.

Ventilation

All windows and doors will be open to ensure adequate ventilation occurs in classrooms.

Air Purifiers

Air Purifiers have arrived and have been installed in each classroom.

Parent/Carer Volunteers

No volunteers at this time.

Class Bubbles

Children will remain in class bubbles to reduce the likelihood of class to class transmission.

Assemblies/Liturgies

No indoor assemblies/liturgies are to be held at this time.

Sharing of Food

Sharing of food is not permitted at this time so unfortunately children will not be able to bring in cupcakes for birthday celebrations.

Children will continue to eat their snack and lunch outside.

Unwell Students

If your child is unwell and is exhibiting symptoms indicative of COVID 19 (sore throat, fever, cough) we strongly encourage you to keep your child home and seek medical advice.

Students with Underlying Medical Conditions (such as hay fever or asthma)

If your child has persistent symptoms due to an underlying condition such as hay fever or asthma, your child should still be tested for coronavirus (COVID-19) if they develop symptoms that are different to or worse than

their usual symptoms. Parents/Carers should also consider obtaining a medical certificate from the child's treating GP to confirm that it is safe for them to attend school with persistent symptoms that may overlap with some of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Commencement Date Reminders

The school office opens on Friday the 28th of January. Students in Years 1-6 commence on Monday the 31st of January, Prep students commence Tuesday the 1st of February. Witches hats will be placed in the Middle Yard to indicate where your child is to assemble.

Refreshments will be provided for our Prep parents on Tuesday. If you would like to stay and meet our Prep parents you are very welcome, this gathering will occur outdoors in the Middle Yard.

Specialist Timetable 2022

Please note the day your child/ren have their Specialist classes, in particular their PE lesson in order to ensure they wear their sports uniform.

Prep A Jacquie Atley

Tuesday - PE/STEM

Thursday - Italian/Visual Art

Prep O Olivia Tallarico

Tuesday - Italian/PE/STEM

Thursday - Visual Art

1DC Christian DeLuca

Tuesday - PE

Wednesday Italian/Visual Art

Thursday - STEM

1P Rhoe Price

Wednesday - Italian/Visual Art

Thursday - PE/STEM

2C Brigitte Callery

Tuesday - Italian/Visual Art

Wednesday - PE/STEM

2V Virginia Spiller

Tuesday - Italian

Wednesday - PE/STEM

Thursday - Visual Art

3C Nyree Clyne

Wednesday - Italian/Visual Art

Thursday - PE/STEM

3S Samantha Scicluna

Tuesday - STEM

Wednesday Italian/Visual Art

Thursday - PE

4A Amelia Mafodda

Tuesday - Visual Art

Wednesday - PE/STEM

Thursday - Italian

4B Lana Brockenshire

Tuesday - Visual Art

Wednesday - PE/STEM

Thursday - Italian

5L Rob Lagreca

Tuesday - Italian/Art

Thursday - PE/STEM

5P Caddie Palmer

Tuesday - Italian/Art

Thursday - PE/STEM

6A Annabelle Ryan

Tuesday - PE/STEM

Thursday - Italian/Art

6H Sylvia Holroyd

Tuesday - PE/STEM

Thursday - Italian/Art

Reminder Timetable Changes for 2022

8.30 a.m.	Gates Open
8.45 a.m.	FIRST BELL – Gather for Morning Assembly/Birthdays

9.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	Morning Session - Learning Time
11.00 a.m - 11.30 a. m.	Recess
11.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.	Middle Session- Learning Time
1.30 p.m. - 1.40 p.m.	Supervised Lunch Eating Time
1.40 p.m.- 2.25 p.m.	Lunch
2.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.	Afternoon Session- Learning Time
3.30 p.m.	Dismissal

You will receive our first newsletter on Friday the 4th of February outlining important events and dates for 2022. I look forward to seeing you all next week, in the meantime please continue to keep safe and well.

Kind regards,

Maree McIntosh

PRINCIPAL

COVID-19 & Keeping SAFE

each
health . hope . opportunity



Wear a mask



**Practice physical
distancing**



**Wash your
hands regularly**



**If you're sick get
tested and
stay home**