

COVID Update Letter

Good Morning Parents,

We hope you are enjoying a relaxing holiday break with some device free time. We are delighted to know that children will soon be returning to Holy Rosary for onsite learning!

This letter provides you with some information about the return to school for Term 4 as it stands today. As you are aware from the Premier's announcement at the beginning of the holidays, the return to school is expected to follow this plan:

Year Level	Mon 18 Oct	Mon 26 Oct	Fri 5 Nov
Prep	Mon-Wed	Mon-Wed	✓
Year 1 and 2	Thurs-Fri	Thurs-Fri	✓
Year 3 and 4		Tues-Wed	✓
Year 5 and 6		Thurs-Fri	✓

When children return to school they will need their hat and a clearly named drink bottle. All students are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask.

Week 1 and 2 Commencing Mon 4 Oct

Monday 4th Oct- Friday 15th Oct Remote learning continues as per Term 3. If your circumstances have changed and you are an authorised worker who requires your child to attend school, please phone the office. Onsite supervision will continue until Thursday 4th November at 3:20pm.

Staff will talk to your children about their return to school during GoogleMeets to prepare them prior to the return to school. Specialists, Leadership Team members or office staff may pop into your child's Meets for a few minutes as a quick re-familiarisation. If you have any concerns about your child's return please contact your child's teacher.

Friday 15 Oct noon Prep, teachers will conclude online classes and come onsite to set up classrooms and transition any children who may need this support.

Week 3 Commencing Mon 18 Oct

Monday 18th Oct Prep children will return Mon-Wed. Together with Lauren and Megan, Melissa Cuzzilla, Learning Support Officer, has been employed specifically to assist Prep children to settle back into the school routine and to work with them in small groups. Specialist classes (Art, Science, PE, Japanese and Music) will take place at school. Online learning will continue in its current format for Prep children on Thursdays and Fridays, with the exception of specialist subjects, until Friday 5 Nov when all children return onsite.

Wednesday 20th Oct from noon Year 1 and 2 teachers will come onsite to set up classrooms and transition any children who may need this support.

Thursday 21st Oct Year 1 and 2 children will return Thursdays and Fridays. Online learning will continue in its current format for Year 1 and 2 children on Monday-Wednesday, with the exception of specialist subjects, until Friday 5 Nov when all children return onsite.

Week 4 Commencing Mon 25 Oct

Monday 25 Oct from noon Year 3 and 4 teachers come onsite to set up classrooms and transition any children who may need this support.

Tuesday 26th Oct Year 3 and 4 children will return Tuesday and Wednesday for one week. Online learning will continue in its current format on Monday, Thursday and Friday, with the exception of specialist subjects, until 5 Nov when all children return onsite.

Wednesday 25 Oct from noon Year 5 and 6 teachers come onsite to set up classrooms and transition any children who may need this support.

Thursday 28 Oct Year 5 and 6 children will return Thursday and Friday for one week. Online learning will continue in its current format on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, with the exception of specialist subjects until 5 Nov when all children return onsite.

Week 5 Commencing Mon 1st Nov

Part time schedule continues Mon- Wed P-2, Tues-Wed 3/4, Thurs- Fri ½ and 5/6.

Friday 5 Nov All children will return to onsite learning. Yay!!

Week 6 Commencing Mon 8 Nov

All staff and students continue onsite every day.

Other Information

Welcome Back

Children onsite for their first day will be given an icy pole at the dismissal bell at 3:20pm. If you do not wish your child to receive an icy pole, please advise your child's class teacher.

Focus on Learning

Our focus at this time is to have children maximise their learning opportunities. There will be strong emphasis on following the PBL expectations; ***'Safety is our Right, Learning is our Responsibility, Respect is our Way.'*** We will be working to ensure children are on task and focused on learning while still caring for their overall wellbeing.

Sacraments

We have yet to receive any news about our sacramental program. We will keep you informed as the Government updates the rules about worship.

Musical Production

A separate letter will be sent to parents of cast members.

Graduation

We have yet to be advised of the protocols for these events but we will keep you informed as soon as we are clear on Government direction. A separate letter will be sent to Year 6 parents.

Prep 2022

Sadly, our Meet and Greet program cannot go ahead at this time. We have organised online sessions for our new families and a separate letter will be issued to outline these plans.

Excursions and Incursions

Excursions and incursions are not permitted at this time. We will continue to enjoy school activities, as regulations allow.

Health and Safety

Your children's Health and Safety and that of our staff, is of the highest importance. We continually update our COVID Safe plan in line with the changing Government protocols. We provide the following information as part of our plans to ensure this safety.

Vaccination

Staff and all people working onsite (eg TeamKids, replacement teachers and cleaners) must be vaccinated. Proof of vaccination is required. Thankfully, many of our staff members are already fully vaccinated and vaccination targets will be reached by the time we return onsite.

Masks

All staff must wear masks at all times. Although not compulsory, children are encouraged to wear masks.

Sanitisation and Hand washing

All children are required to sanitise/hand wash on arrival at school, before and after eating, when returning from play, or after coughing or sneezing. There are sanitising stations in all classrooms, offices and hallways.

Parents and Other Visitors

At this time, only staff and essential visitors are allowed onsite. Parents will need to make contact with staff via email or organise GoogleMeet sessions.

Cleaning

Cleaners have been provided with a schedule of return dates to ensure that a thorough cleaning of rooms takes place again before children return to school. Regular cleaning takes place in every room, every day.

Ventilation

We have been advised that all low fee Catholic schools (that's us) will receive ventilation and air purification systems. Windows and doors will also be left open. Signs are posted on doors to advise maximum occupancy.

Outdoor Lessons

At times, learning will take place outside as a measure to reduce transmission.

Chess, Instrumental Lessons, Speech and Drama

Subject to Government regulations, it is expected that Instrumental Music, and Speech and Drama will re-commence on 5 November. We will keep you posted about chess.

Holy Rosary device returns

Families can keep their borrowed devices at home until further notice. Whilst we are in this transition period of a full return to school, children will need the technology at home. We will keep you informed of how and when to return devices in the coming weeks.

Drop off and pick up

In keeping with our COVIDSafe plans we ask that parents drop children off at the school gates and promptly leave the area each morning. Gates will be opened from 8:30am and a staff member will be on yard duty. Teachers will meet their classes at 8:45am in the school yard ready to begin the day. Gates will once again be reopened at 3:20pm for pick up. Adults are asked to meet their child at the gate and leave promptly to avoid congestion. We thank you for your cooperation.

QR code for contract tracing

Any parent or visitor entering the school buildings, including the OHSC, will need to use the Victorian Government QR Code and VPass check-in systems. They will also need a Vaccination certificate.

Melbourne Cup Eve: 1 November

This is a student-free Day where teachers will be working on end of year reports. There will be no onsite supervision available to families on this day.

FYI

This bulletin will be placed on our website so that you can refer to the information as you require it.

Finally...

There's sure to be plenty of changes along the road and we will keep you posted as we hear of new Government protocols. We wish you all every happiness in the term ahead and excitedly anticipate seeing your children soon.

Can't wait to see you all soon,

Christine