



Newsletter

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9795 5258

20th May 2020

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Last week we were greeted with the news that our children will be returning to school. It was a time of mixed emotions for many. Our children were:

- excited about coming back to school to see their friends and teachers
- ecstatic that they no longer had to have mum and dad teach them
- unsure of what school would be like 9 weeks since last attending school
- nervous of what to expect on the first day back

In this time of COVID-19 it is not uncommon for us to have a roller coaster of emotions. It is uncertain times we are living in, however remember that school will ALWAYS be a constant for them.

To help ease and comfort our children about our return, here are some things you can reassure them about to help with the transition back to school.

What will be the same at school?	What will be different school?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will have the same teacher/s • I will have the same children in my class • I will have all the same lessons as Term 1 • I will have Chinese, Performing Arts, PE and Visual Arts on the same day as in Term 1 • I will have the same play and lunch times • I will have all my friends at school • I will have all the teachers at school ready to help me whenever I need • I will have Lisa at the office to help me whenever I need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will start and finish school at a different time • I will have to walk into the school without my mum or dad • My parents will only be able to pick me up from the basketball court • Assembly will be done via Google Meet in our classroom

As you can see, there are far more positives to focus on with your child. This week in the final Foundation to Year 2 Google Meets, the teachers will be addressing this with the children to help them settle back and ease concerns. Please know that if you have any concerns about your child's return to school, our classroom teachers are the best ones to contact, or Mrs Lorraine Walker, our Student Wellbeing leaders. They will be able to help with any concerns families may be facing.

This return to school is both an exciting and nervous time, and the way your child will respond is how you respond, so be positive and upbeat. Let them know that we are all here at any time to help and that it will ALL BE OK!

We are all in this together and are SUPER excited to have everyone back. Our teachers have already been busy preparing how we can make a smooth and seamless transition back to school and how each and every child will be supported in all parts of their being to flourish! We can't wait!

Returning to school procedures

Foundation – Year 2	Tuesday 26 th May
Year 3 - 6	Tuesday 9 th June

As I outlined last week, schools are mandated by the State Government to have particular protocols in place to ensure the safety of everyone. This a part of the conditions in regards to returning to school.

I know this is not ideal for any of us, and that some parents are anxious with these arrangements, but please know we will have plenty of staff on duty during these staggered drop off and pick up times. We will ensure ALL children feel comfortable, safe and get to their classrooms in a calm and safe manner.

Know that YOUR children are OUR children and we WILL look after them at ALL times.

The Government has mandated that each school **MUST** minimise congestion and people congregating. This will mean that we will have:

- staggered start and finish times for students
- strict restrictions on who may enter the school grounds
- only school staff being permitted to be on the school grounds

Parents will have very limited access to entering the school. The only time parents may enter the school grounds is:

- to drop off a late child
- collect an unwell child
- collect a child requiring to attend an appointment
- collection of their children at the end of the day (only on the basketball courts where social distancing of 1.5m between families occurs)

Students accessing the school grounds for the whole of Term 2

- All families are expected to observe and follow the new times their children will begin and finish school
- This is an EXPECTATION not a choice

Surname/Family name	Morning drop off time	Afternoon pick up time
A-I	8.30am	2.45pm
J-O	8.45am	3.00pm
P-Z	9.00am	3.15pm

By having our staggered start and finish times organised by family/surnames, this will help families move quickly and reduce the congestion.

Morning Drop off

- Students will be asked to walk into the school **without an adult**. Parents must say goodbye to their child at the car, and not gather around the gate
- The two main gates will be open
- Students can be dropped off at the 2 minute drop off zone outside the school, where they will exit the car on their own
- Parents are encouraged to park near the school, in designated car parks, where their children will independently walk to school and use the supervised school crossing if required
- There will be multiple staff members on yard duty supervision inside and outside the school gates to ensure the safety of all children

Afternoon Pick up

- Parents will be permitted to enter the school grounds and wait for their children **ONLY** on the basketball courts
- **Strict social distancing guidelines will be in place and must be followed**
- ALL children at their designated pick up time will be brought to the basketball courts by classroom teachers
- When leaving the school grounds parents must ensure they maintain the 1.5m distance between themselves and others and leave via the school gates closest to their route of travel
- We encourage older children to walk to a designated meeting place outside the school grounds, where they will independently walk and use the supervised school crossing if required
- There will be multiple staff members on yard duty supervision to ensure social distancing occurs and that all leave the school safely

Parking

As there will be more foot traffic on our footpaths, it is imperative that everyone follows the parking guidelines.

The 2 minute parking bays outside our school are clearly signed by the council and need to be adhered to, especially now that we will be using this as the main area for drop off during our staggered drop off and pick up times. Mrs Ferguson will be on duty here monitoring that it flows and that people are not holding up this flow.

Important and timely reminders:

- If waiting in the 2 minute bays for your child/ren to arrive, drivers cannot leave their car
- If waiting for a parking space in the 2 minute bays, please do not pull up along the outside of a car already in these bays and call your child to the middle of the road to hop in the car. It would be safer to drive around the block and wait for a parking space rather than cause an accident or injury
- Never park in the bus stops, driveways, or on the nature strips of our neighbours – this can restrict the view of pedestrians and other road users. It's also very disrespectful
- If you need to cross the road **ALWAYS** use the pedestrian crossing that is supervised. Walking that extra few metres ensures that there is no injuries, or worse fatalities. Walking out from behind parked cars is asking for trouble



It is imperative that we stay calm and be patient. We are role models for our children on what is appropriate behaviour on our roads, even though they are years off from being road users themselves. Thank you for your support on this matter.

Please note that we will monitor our drop off and pick up procedures and adapt if need be. If there are any changes that impact families, a FlexiBuzz will be sent out informing families of any new changes.

I know this will be hard for some families but we **MUST** follow these rules as a part of the new conditions to be able to return to school. The first week will be the most difficult, but after that, like all the things COVID-19 related we've had to adapt to, we will adapt to this too.

Access to school staff

Parents who need to speak to their child's teacher will not be able to do this face to face.

All staff can be contacted via email or on the school phone number. Staff will endeavour to reply to parents within 24 hours.

School attendance

As the Government has now mandated it is safe for students to return to school, once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal.

This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to onsite schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home.

This is a government mandate that the school will be enforcing to ensure the health and wellbeing of teaching staff.

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they **must not** attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

Any child who presents to school and is unwell or becomes unwell during the course of the day, will be asked to be collected.

If at any time a child or a family member of the child who is attending school:

- ***comes in contact with a person who has COVID-19***
- ***is tested for COVID-19***
- ***tests positive to COVID-19***

the school must be notified immediately so we can implement our emergency safety plan.

School absence

If your child is absent from school, the school **must be notified** by 9.30am.

The best way to do this is via FlexiBuzz.

Please click on the button ABSENCE FORM, fill in all the details and then press SUBMIT.

This will then be sent to Lisa in the office and saves her from ringing families to find out where your child is.

This has ALWAYS been a government requirement and must be completed every time your child/ren are absent, not just during COVID-19.



Uniform Shop

Our uniform shop will continue to be open on Tuesday and Fridays, but not for face to face sales. Families are asked to complete an order form (which is available on the school website) and place it in a clearly labelled envelope with the correct money.

Your child will then place the envelope in the class office box which will then be filled and packed by the uniform shop and sent home via your child.

If the clothing you have ordered is the wrong size, please keep the tags and packaging attached so it can be swapped for the correct size. Please ring Lisa if this happens so she can advise on how to swap the clothing over.

Year 5/6 Camp

Due to COVID-19, all school excursions and camps for Term 2 have been cancelled. Unfortunately our Year 5/6 camp to Mount Evelyn was booked for the last week of this term.

As there is usually a two year wait to get into school camp facilities, I will be endeavouring to organise some kind of "experience" for our children. Unfortunately I cannot organise anything yet due to so many restrictions.

Once we have organised something, families will be informed of the new costing and be rebated if it is cheaper than the camp fee quoted on the school fees.

Be strong my friends. We are all in this together and are actually doing well.

Keep calm, stay healthy, be kind, and stay home.

Christina Ferguson
Principal

Education in Faith



St Elizabeth's Feast Day

We will celebrate our Feast Day next Friday 29th May. Our Junior school children will be at school and will participate in prayer and fun activities together. The rest of our children have been asked to wear their school uniform on that day and to watch the Assembly video, where they will be a part of a liturgy celebrated by father tad.

Our Feast day encourages us to remember when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth and they spent some time together being a family.

This is a little like us in that we have all worked together with members of our families and have strengthened bonds to stand the test of time.

Feast of Pentecost

On the same weekend as the Feast of the Visitation, it is the Feast of Pentecost.

In the Acts of the Apostles version of the Pentecost story, the disciples experience the Holy Spirit entering into each one of them and then drawing them together.

On that day in Jerusalem there were people gathered from all over the world, people from every culture and language group. When the disciples went out to share the Spirit of Pentecost they were able to communicate with those people of diverse cultures and languages in a way that spoke personally to each one: 'in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power' (Acts 2: 11).



On that day the first Christian community was born: a community of forgiveness, of cultural diversity, of sharing, of equality, of mutual support and benefit, of understanding and trust (Acts 2: 43–47).

Looking forward to seeing everyone when the restrictions ease.

Take care of yourself and others

Lorraine Walker
RE Leader

Family Wellbeing during COVID-19

I wonder how you felt when you heard the news about our return back to school. Were you relieved, joyful, grateful, worried or anxious?

Whichever response applied to you, I think we need to be aware of the following:

- The return to school will consist of a journey. It took time to adjust to Remote Learning and it will take time to adjust back
- The period of adjustment will differ from person to person, family to family
- Emotions will be evident in your child's actions, behaviour, attitude, language....there is no right or wrong way to make the transition

As a school, we are committed to the Wellbeing of our students. Our staff will guide the children back to their routines and back to their friendships. If your child is experiencing anxiety or concerns about returning, please feel free to contact me so we can support the family. It will take time to gather our thoughts and work together to ensure our children feel happy, safe and secure.

Being Grateful

A really good strategy is to realise **the benefits of gratitude** increasing your gratitude is useful because:

- it's an instant mood booster and feels great in the moment
- you're likely to feel closer to friends and family
- you're likely to enjoy your life more
- it's good for your physical health
- it's easier to cope with tough times
- good things in life don't stick in our heads as easily as bad events.



This last point is really important. We tend to remember when bad things happen, and the time we spend thinking about them makes us unhappy. But, if we make an effort to increase how often we experience gratitude, it can balance out some of the negative stuff.

That doesn't mean that you should ignore/forget your problems, or that the things wrong with your life are unimportant. It just means that good memories will also stick in your mind, so you get to enjoy them for longer.

How to practise gratitude

Experiencing more gratitude is easy and doesn't take much time. Try these ideas and see what works best for you:

- **Keep a gratitude journal.** Take five minutes each day or once a week to think of and write down three things that have happened to you since the previous day or week that you're glad you experienced
- **Take pictures.** Set yourself a mission to photograph little things in your everyday life that make you smile
- **Tell someone you're grateful to have them in your life.** Whether it's someone you look up to, or someone who just makes you happy, take the time to tell them you're glad they're around

You don't have to think up a whole bunch of really significant things in order to be grateful. You can be grateful for the smallest things, such as the sunshine, your morning coffee, or the fact that you made it to your train on time. So try to increase your gratitude every day.

Lorraine Walker
Student Wellbeing Leader

Community

2021 Foundation Enrolments



The graphic for St Elizabeth's School features a collage of photos: a child in a yellow safety vest holding a red stop sign, children in blue uniforms playing in a garden bed, and children sitting on the floor with educational materials. A central yellow box contains the text: "2021 Enrolments Open", "School tours available", and "9795 5258".

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We are currently taking enrolments for 2021. Due to COVID-19, we are only doing school tours before and after school when no students are onsite, to minimise the risk.

If any of our current families have a child starting next year and have not yet filled in an enrolment form, this can be downloaded from our website or please contact Lisa and she can send one home with your eldest child.

Enrolments close at the end of this term.



Have you considered online music lessons?

Places are still available for Term 2!

Online lessons are still available **via live video link** directly to one of our PMI tutors, so students can learn their instrument from their own home, just like this:



Here's some feedback from one of our parents:

"My daughter is not missing out on keyboard lessons now because they are online. Well done PMI!"

Please enrol via our website:
www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au

Or for any enquiries, email
admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au or Phone 1300 362 824

