

Dear parents and carers

A big thank you for your continuing efforts in supporting our school and students during the pandemic – especially prioritising safety and learning.

The Premier and the Minister for Education recently announced changes to school settings for the remainder of Term 1.

The updated settings include:

- From Monday 28th February, we will move to symptomatic testing using Rapid Antigen Tests. Tests are to be used at your discretion such as if your child is symptomatic or there are cases in their class. Our school has provided each student and staff member with additional RAT kits.
- Masks will continue to be required **indoors** for all school staff, volunteers and visitors including parents and carers in primary schools until **Friday 4th March**. This means that from Monday 7 March, masks will no longer be mandatory for all staff. However, those who wish to continue to use them will be supported to do so.
- In line with community settings, staff who support our students with disability in our support class will be required to wear masks while working with students.
- Visitors can be allowed back on school sites regardless of their vaccination status. All visitors are asked to follow our usual sign-in and sign-out process.

Our school will continue to ensure our layered COVID-smart measures are in place, including staff vaccinations, maximising natural ventilation in learning spaces, continued good hand hygiene practices and enhanced cleaning.

Cohorting

As of Monday 28 February, students will no longer be required to be kept in small cohorts and we will no longer be required to use staggered break times. All our students will be accessing the playground at the same time for recess and lunch; however, as part of our COVID-smart measures, we will be operating a K-2 and 3-6 playground for the present time. The canteen will be operating on an order-only basis for 2 more weeks. **From 14th March**, the canteen will operate as normal, with over-the-counter purchases allowed.

We will continue to use the core layered COVID-smart measures for minimising risk when planning activities and events. Our school will consider activities such as assemblies, excursions and other gatherings in the coming days. We will let you know when these can proceed with our school in a COVID-smart way.

Morning Drop-off

Our school will continue to provide support at the gate to assist children to enter the school in the morning. Our students have shown great resilience and independence by entering the school by themselves for quite a significant period of time now. If, however, your child struggles to enter the school by themselves, you may enter the school to drop them off **at their designated supervision area only**. Parents are not permitted to access the classrooms. Please leave the school promptly once your child has settled.

The morning supervision areas are:

- **Kindy and our support class students:** Bottom Grove (the area where Kindy were dropped off for Kindy transition)
- **Years 1 and 2:** The canteen area
- **Years 3 and 4:** The basketball court
- **Years 5 and 6:** The Stage 3 assembly area

Please be aware that morning supervision starts at 8.35am. Parents must not enter the school prior to this time. Students should not be onsite before 8.35am, as there is no supervision provided.

Afternoon Pickup

The routine for our afternoon pickup is very similar to the present routine. Parents may enter the school as far as the basketball court or the footpath on bottom grove to collect children who are in K-2. Students in 3-6 are encouraged to continue to leave the school independently to meet their parents; however, parents of students in 3-6 are welcome to meet their child near the basketball court or bottom grove. Parents must not wait for their child outside the classrooms. **Please do not enter the school prior to 2.50pm.** Please leave promptly once you have collected your child.

Parents are not required to use the QR check in when dropping off or picking up their child before or after school.

Late Arrivals or Early Leavers

If your child is late for school, you may bring your child into the office to collect their late note, if they are unable to do this by themselves. Parents entering the office will need to use the QR check-in. Once your child has their late note, they will be encouraged to walk independently to the classroom; however, if this is difficult for them, a member of staff will take them to class.

If you need to collect your child early from school, please contact the school. Your child will meet you in the office to be taken home. You will need to use the QR code check-in.

Thank you again for your continued support during this school term. Changes are announced to schools swiftly and with little time for implementation; however, I will keep you updated of any further changes to our operational settings as quickly as possible. Stay safe, everyone!

Best wishes,

Mrs Thompson