

19 May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

Return to School Procedures & Protocols (Foundation-Year 2)

With the return to school for Foundation (Prep), Year 1 and Year 2 students next Tuesday 26 May, we wish to draw your attention to the following procedures and expectations:

Drop off and Pick Up

To adhere to social distancing and safety guidelines, drop off and pick up procedures are as follows:

Staggered drop off & Pick up times:

Yr 2 drop off will be between 8.30 and 8.45am. Pick up will be between 3.00 and 3.15pm.

Yr 1 drop off will be between 8.45 and 9.00am. Pick up will be between 2.45 and 3.00pm.

Prep drop off will be between 9.00 and 9.15am. Pick up will be between 2.30 and 2.45pm.

*Families with more than one child across the three grades will drop off/collect all children at the one time.

Location

To minimise parents being onsite, drop off and collection will happen on the old basketball court in front of the school. Parents will enter via the front gate, drop off/collect children on the basketball court and then exit via the Cathedral gate. There will be markers along the footpath outside the school and across the basketball court to maintain a 1.5m distance.

Students will enter/exit the school building via the South entrance (near the Library). On entry, (between the South entrance and the open-area), the students will clean their hands with sanitiser and then be directed to their learning space.

If your child has any possible symptoms of Covid-19 you must not send them to school.

*If your child presents with any possible Covid-19 symptoms (Runny nose, cough, drowsy, sore throat, feeling sick), parents will be asked to make alternative arrangements for your child. If a student arrived not showing any signs of being unwell but later developed signs, parents will be contacted to collect their child immediately. Any such situation will be treated with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality.

Spacing Precautions

While social distancing between students is not a directive from our governing bodies, during the first phase of "return to school" we will be aiming to maintain social distancing where possible. For this reason, the Year 2 students will be spaced through the Yr 1 & 2 classrooms, the Year 1 students will be working in the Open Area and Foundation (Prep) will be spaced in the Foundation learning area.

Each class will have their own allocated play areas for Recess and Lunch.

Hygiene Precautions

Students will be reminded of the need to take care with health and hygiene practices such as washing hands with soap and using hand sanitiser throughout the day, not touching their face and maintaining their distance. We recognise that it is not easy for young children to remember these new practices, but we will do our best to remind/teach them.

Cleaning

In the absence of students during remote learning, cleaning of the school and disinfecting of common high touch surfaces (door handles, light switches, chairs, tables/benches and bathrooms) has been increased. This increased regime of cleaning will continue as needed.

Dealing with rubbish

In an attempt to reduce movement and the double handling of rubbish we ask that all of your child's food either not be wrapped (nude food) or alternatively, your child places any food wrapping paper back in their lunch box and take it home with them.

Staff Precautions

Prior to working with students, all teachers will have been tested and cleared of Covid-19. This is not a directive but is an extra precaution that staff have volunteered to do to assist in the prevention of any possible spread of the virus and reassure families of our desire to take the greatest possible care where we can.

All staff will have their temperature taken each day and monitor their own health.

Any staff member who has any possible symptom of Covid-19 will not come to school.

While working within 3 metres of the students, all staff will wear facemasks.

In the event that a child presents with possible Covid-19 symptoms, staff will attend to the student while wearing facemask, goggles, gloves and protective clothing. Again, any such situation will be treated with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality.

School Bus Arrangements

All school buses will be running and have stated that they will have certain safety procedures in place. All bus companies have the following procedures with some slight variations as provided to us by the bus coordinator:

"All buses are cleaned at the end of the day or in the morning before leaving on a run, they are then cleaned immediately after last drop off and again at the end of the day. Buses with low numbers will keep some seats closed where possible. Some buses will supply hand sanitiser but not all, students are expected to wash or sanitise their hands before getting on the bus and again when they get off the bus. Sick students (or students who appear to be unwell) will not have access to the bus. If a child becomes ill at school the school is expected to contact parents and ensure that a parent picks them up from school. If a student presents ill to the bus stop in the morning, the driver will contact the coordinator and the coordinator will contact the parents. They will NOT be granted access to the bus if they are unwell."

Beth Lanigan

Office Manager/Sale Network Bus Coordinator

Other Things to Remember

~Your child will need to bring any **stationery, readers and workbooks** that they have had during remote learning.

~They will need to bring their **drink-bottle** (outside drink taps will not be in operation).

~They will need to bring their own **brain-food, recess and lunch**. Tuckshop/canteen will not be running until further notice.

~If you borrowed a school **technology device** for remote learning, you **will need to return it to Mrs Jessica Lee** (on the basketball court at the time of student drop off on the first morning) and have it signed back to the school (as per Technology User Agreement). **Please refer to the instructions from Mrs Lee that will be sent home this week.**

Choosing Not to Send Your Child

While St Mary's follows the directives and recommendations of the Chief Health Officer and the Education Authority, and we are looking forward to having the children return, it is understandable that some parents may be quite concerned about returning to school.

The current Remote Schooling Program, that has been provided so far this term, will not continue and Dojo will go back to being used as a simple communication system (as was the case prior to Covid-19). However, where families choose to keep their children at home, schools may provide some provision of absence work (where requested), but students must be marked as absent on the official attendance roll.

If you intend to keep your child/children at home, please contact Mr Morris via email (principal@stmarysale.catholic.edu.au) by 10.00am this Friday 22 May.



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More to Come

We are constantly revising procedures and protocols in this ever-changing situation, to provide the safest and best possible learning for your child. We aim to keep families up to date with directives and support parents and students to manage the social, emotional and academic wellbeing of each person.

There will be ongoing updates and further information prior to the second phase of return to school (Year 3-6 on Tuesday 9 June).

Should you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office or via email.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brett Morris'.

Brett Morris
Principal