

26 January 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

Commencement of Term 1 2021 – Visitors

Welcome back for the start of a new school year. I hope that students and parents enjoyed the Christmas season and the holiday period. Now...., let's see what challenges and opportunities 2021 has for us.

At St Mary's Primary School, a number of strategies were implemented last year to assist with reducing congregation of people on our school grounds, including at our school entry and exit points. This is an important health and safety measure to reduce the potential spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our school community.

In accordance with Victorian Government requirements, all visitors at St Mary's, including parents, guardians and carers, who are on-site for more than 15 minutes are required to sign in via the QR code and complete a School Entry Declaration at the school office/administration area.

In addition, we are required to adhere to density limits in any indoor space, including classrooms, being attended by parents, guardians, carers and other visitors.

All visitors to school grounds are also required to comply with physical distancing requirements of keeping at least 1.5 metres apart, practising good hand and respiratory hygiene and adhere to face mask recommendations set by the Victorian Government.

Importantly, I ask if parents, guardians, carers or other visitors are unwell that they do not attend the school.

Drop off and pick up procedures

The health and safety of all staff, students and the wider school community is our highest priority.

From Week 2 (Monday 1st of February 2021), to limit the congregation of people on our school grounds, parents, guardians, carers and other visitors are asked not to accompany their child(ren) into the school grounds or to their classroom during arrival and departure times.

However, to support our students with a positive transition to the start of the school year, and with the opportunity provided over the first two "Assessment Days" (Thursday 29th & Friday 30th February), we invite parents to accompany their children, visit the classrooms and meet the teachers. With the scheduled times and minimal numbers on site over the two days, we can easily meet all "COVID Safe" recommendations. Sanitiser will be provided on entry, physical distancing must be maintained and visiting adults must wear a mask when inside the school building.

Foundation Students – Pick up and Drop off processes

With many new changes to understand when starting Foundation (Prep), I recognise that school drop off and pick up process may be challenging for some Foundation students.

For this reason, the following arrangements are in place for the commencement of the school year for our Foundation students:

- As was the process during the transition visits at the end of last year, Mrs Crouch, Mrs Feuillerade & Mrs Allan will meet the Foundation students and their families at the "Sitting Tree" in front of the Foundation classroom. Parents will need to sign in (using the QR code) prior to entering the Foundation classroom with your child, and aim to leave as soon as you know your child is settled.

- We cannot have more than 10 adults in the classroom at one time. In order to allow the next group of parents to enter (and density limits are not exceeded), please spend no longer than a couple of minutes farewelling your child.
- At the conclusion of the school day, Foundation students will be supervised by their teacher for collection by parents at the "Sitting Tree".

I understand that starting the school year can be a time of many mixed feelings for both students and families and that having a clear understanding of the arrival and departure process assists with a successful beginning of the school year.

For this reason, I encourage parents, guardians and carers to discuss the abovementioned arrival and departure arrangements with their child(ren) prior to the commencement of the school year.

I also encourage contact to be made with me directly if you wish to discuss any additional support your child(ren) may require to assist with facilitating their transition at the start of the school year, if you have not already done so.

If you require clarification in relation to the visitor arrangements or drop off and pick up procedures implemented at the school to limit the spread of COVID-19 or require additional support, please contact me by phoning the school office (51441780) or emailing principal@stmarysale.catholic.edu.au

I look forward to supporting all students and their families with a positive transition to the 2021 school year.

Yours sincerely



Brett Morris
Principal