



Dandenong North Primary School

PO Box 2080, Dandenong 3175 Tel: 9794 7899 Fax: 9706 7279

Email: dandenong.north.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Dear Parents/Carers,

07/10/2020

ALL CHILDREN RESUME ON MONDAY 12th OCTOBER

Remote Learning will cease on Monday 12th October. All students are expected to return to school on that Monday.

At the “three-quarter mark” of what has been a year of stress and turmoil, all primary-age children are able to return to school.

Let’s hope that this return is uninterrupted by any further ISOLATION requirements! The Victorian infection rates are finally down around single figures and with focus and discipline we can all contribute to them remaining low. If they do, the chances of another interruption to schooling will also remain low.

We will be limiting the entry access points to the school and designating different gates as EXIT points so that we can minimise contacts and closeness of adults. We know that with very young children, parents or carers may want to make sure that their children get to the correct room or building before leaving. Even then, parents and carers should leave the school grounds as quickly as possible.

If parents or carers do not need to come into the school grounds, then please do not, so that we can minimise adult movements and contacts with each other.

Experience and research evidence indicates that the younger the child, the less chance of cross-infection there is. Adults are a different matter altogether. For the time being, we will not allow parents or carers access to any of the school buildings other than the office – and, even then, only one at a time. However if a parent or carer is wanting to enrol a new student for 2021, there will be a special enrolment booth set up in the portable canteen to be accessed by appointment. An appointment can be arranged by telephoning the Main Office on 97947899.

All of our staff are concerned about the learning gaps that are almost inevitable when students miss so much schooling. Even if they have worked all day on every day of home learning they will still have missed significant elements or understandings that are important building blocks for advanced progress. This is not a criticism of our parents and carers whom we know have done a fantastic job under very difficult circumstances.

The priorities staff will be working on will be:

Priority 1 – Student mental health and wellbeing - we want to re-settle children into safe routines and feeling good about themselves.

Priority 2 – Learning – with a very strong focus on Literacy and Numeracy – “catch-ups” and Extension

Priority 3 – Transition – Year 6 students moving away from primary school to secondary schools for 2021.

All of us are having to adjust to a “new normal” where restrictions exist that we may or may not like, but have to follow.



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CONDITIONS OF ADULT ENTRY

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ATTENTION PARENTS, CARERS and VISITORS

ACCESS CONDITIONS APPLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE – By authority of Victorian Chief Medical Officer

1. Proper Face Masks MUST be worn over nose and mouth as a condition of ADULT entry.
2. A minimum distance of 1.5 metres between adults MUST be maintained by ALL adults at ALL times.
3. Parents/ Carers MUST use ENTRY gates closest to their child's classroom and MUST exit through the next nearest EXIT gate. (This IS important!)
4. Parents and Carers are expected to drop and GO, or pick-up and GO without delay. No student playing on playground equipment at the end of a school day.
5. Strictly NO ENTRY to buildings other than the Main Office.
6. All DNPS staff are authorised to issue lawful instructions in relation to these conditions – failure to respectfully comply with instructions may result in loss of access privileges.

ENTRY and EXIT gates



Please do not be offended if you are directed to a particular area by a member of our staff. All decisions are being made in the best interests of students and I don't think anyone should begrudge that.



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Being COVID-Safe

We are aiming to provide a common-sense and cooperative approach to COVID safety as much as is humanly possible. We can only achieve this with the cooperation of EVERYONE.

We need parents to:

- Maintain MINIMUM social distancing of 1.5 metres at all times.
- Wear a face covering CORRECTLY if you expect to be inside the school gates.
- Not to enter any of the buildings so as not to become a “contact trace” in the event of a suspected infection.
- Leave the school grounds as quickly as possible; and not “socialize” (gather in pairs or small groups to have a talk) in the school grounds.
- Be on time - especially in the mornings - to prevent additional contacts being made at the Main Office. Being on time to pick children up is also very important as we **cannot have children crowded into the small Main Office area awaiting late pick-ups.**
- Make sure your child has a drink container as “bubble -taps” have been disabled.
- Please add a suitable hat to your child’s uniform **as we will not be able to lend-out hats because of the risk of virus transference.** Skin cancer will take longer than COVID to make its presence known – but it could be just as deadly if children are not protected from unnecessary sun exposure.
- KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME **at the first sign of any illness.** The whole school might have to close for anything up to three weeks if just one child attends who subsequently tests COVID-positive. Closures in these instances provide no opportunity for device distribution or work-setting by school staff.
- Comply with **any** instructions by any school staff member; the reasons for an instruction may not always be apparent, but they will always be in the best interests of our students and your continued access to the school grounds will depend upon your cooperation during this pandemic emergency. Staff are in charge of children while they are on the school grounds and parents are allowed on the grounds provided they understand this.

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for the dedication and perseverance you have shown during the very difficult 21 weeks that your children have been excluded from school. It is obvious that everyone has undertaken their various new responsibilities very seriously, and all of us have done the very best of which we have been capable.

Kevin Mackay

Principal