



## SCHOOL UPDATE

15/10/2021

**Please see the letter below from the Department of Education regarding face masks at school.**

Dear families,

To support the staged return for students to school, the Victorian Chief Health Officer has announced new rules around mask wearing to keep everyone at school safe. We know that returning to school will look a little different this time and it's important that we support you and your children with effective ways to keep everyone safe and well.

One of the most important and effective things we can do to help keep students in the classroom is to wear masks to help minimise COVID-19 transmission risk. When worn properly, masks can play an important role in reducing the transmission risks of Covid-19 that could happen from common activities in school.

### **Students in Grade 3 and above**

- Face masks will also be required for all school students in **Grade 3 and above** indoors including at Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) programs, unless a lawful exception applies. Face masks can be removed while outdoors at school for primary students.
- **Students in Grades 3 to 6 are required to wear face masks from 18 October 2021.** All other students who are required to wear a face mask must continue to do so from the first day they return to onsite learning.
- Face masks will be strongly recommended for Prep to Year 2 students.
- For students with a disability, parents and carers should speak to the child's doctor or regular health professional about the best methods to encourage mask wearing.
- Exceptions include students with a physical or mental disability where their disability means it would not be suitable. Parent/carers of a student/s who meet the criteria for an exception must provide their approval in writing for their child/ren to not wear a mask to the school.

The school will try to maximise outdoor learning where possible and offer more recreation and breaks wherever practicable to further support students.

We can work together to support students by having conversations around the importance of masks in preventing COVID -19 transmission and remind them that it's only for a few days a week.

We encourage you to discuss wearing masks with your children to keep kids in the classroom and minimise COVID-19 transmission risk. The Raising Children Network has resources that can help you with [having conversations with your children about wearing masks](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support in the implementation of these important steps that enable us to return to onsite learning. We look forward to welcoming your children back into the classroom.

Please call me if you need to discuss anything,

Ross Carlson  
Principal