



Newham Primary School No. 1913
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Newsletter 2

From the Principal's Desk

Hello Everyone,

Perhaps you have been watching the news and have seen that some COVID restrictions across Melbourne are lifting. This is great news for schools as well, as I am cautiously optimistic that the new operations guide due out next week will relieve us of some of our school restrictions. Here's hoping!

I would also like to thank parents and students for the great job they have done in keeping our school as safe as possible by following important COVIDSafe measures such as mask wearing, physical distancing, ventilation, getting vaccinated and rapid antigen testing. This has meant that our school has remained open and our students in class. This is a fantastic outcome and a testament to the hard work of parents, carers, students, and school staff. (So far, we have had very few COVID cases and considering there are staff and students attending our school for whom COVID could be further detrimental to their health or to that of their family, we thank you in advance for your continued vigilance and support).

In the meantime, I have sent out via uEducatUs the latest information from DET on COVID compliance which is repeated here.

Rapid Antigen Tests

To keep schools as safe as possible, the Victorian Government has extended the COVIDSafe measures introduced for the beginning of Term 1. This includes extending the availability of free rapid antigen tests (RAT) for screening until the end of term. It is anticipated an additional 24 million RATs will be provided to schools and early childhood settings to continue to support early detection and prevent infection, for use at home.

The need for this program will continue to be monitored and may end earlier based on health advice. This is great news and will mean we're able to continue identifying COVID-19 cases as early as possible, reducing the impact on our school and individuals.

Department of Health modelling indicates that in the first two weeks of school returning, the program has already prevented more than 21,000 cases in schools alone. Their modelling indicates, assuming a 75 per cent compliance rate with screening of students, that by continuing RAT screening in schools for the full 10 weeks of Term 1, we will prevent:

- * 61,000 COVID-19 infections in children aged 5 to 17
- * More than 150,000 COVID-19 infections in the overall community (on average 15,000 per week over 10 weeks, or more than 2,100 per day)

Excellence: [Resilience](#) | [Unity](#) | [Responsibility](#) | [Respect](#)

*

Friday 18th February 2022

2022 Term Dates

Term 1: 31 January-8 April
Term 2: 26 April-24 June
Term 3: 11 July-16 September
Term 4: 3 October-20 December

Diary Dates

PLEASE NOTE NEWLY ADDED EVENTS ARE BOLD

22nd & 23rd February	Parent Teacher Interviews via Phone. Book via uEducatUs
27th February	CSEF Applications Due
28th February	Preps full time
11th March	Conveyance Allowance Applications Due

Around 400 hospital admissions.

The department will continue to supply RATs to our school for your use. Families will be notified of the arrival of the next RAT deliveries. Families who have picked up their allocation of boxes for weeks 3&4 should have enough test kits for this week and next. If you have not picked up your RATs for weeks 3&4, please do so.

Twice-a-week testing continues to be strongly recommended for both students and staff.

Testing will be conducted at home, and students and staff must report any positive result. **There is no requirement to report a negative result.**

Vaccination

Vaccination is another key component to protect students and staff in school settings.

Vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 are open and third dose vaccinations for 16- to 17-year-olds are now available.

There are lots of convenient options to access vaccinations. These include state-wide vaccination hubs, your local GP or pharmacy.

You can book your appointment in a few different ways, including:

- * online: coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine
- * by phone: 1800 675 398 (Coronavirus Hotline)
- * In person: talk to your local pharmacy, doctor, or attend a state-wide vaccination hub. * using the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder - COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder | Australian Government Department of Health.

From the Principal's Desk

Ventilation

Improving ventilation is one of the most effective measures to keep education settings safe. 51,000 air purifiers were delivered to schools by Term 1, 2022 to support COVIDSafe settings in schools.

Up to an additional 60,000 air purifiers will be rolled out to schools ahead of winter to supplement natural and mechanical ventilation during the cooler months.

The winter allocation will provide enough purifiers to cover all classrooms, in government schools and low-fee non-government schools based on current enrolments. This includes general purpose classrooms and other specialist classrooms such as art and science rooms.

Mask rules will remain the same, with students in Grade 3 and above required to wear masks – although they will not be required outdoors.

School Council

Our annual school council election processes will take place from next week. Nominations for a position on council will open next Tuesday 22nd February and close Monday 7th March. Nomination forms will be sent via uEducateUs to parents interested in nominating (or a hardcopy can be picked up from the office). Applicants can self-nominate or have someone nominate them. Further information will go out to parents via uEducateUs as the process progresses. For the moment I have included here some information on the role of school council in our school.

School councils play a vital role in Victorian government schools and are established and operate under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic), the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic) and a constituting Order.

A well-informed and effective school council strengthens community confidence in the school and helps to build and secure the school's reputation.

The key functions of school council regarding our school are:

- to establish the broad direction and vision of the school within the school's community
- to arrange for the supply of:
 - goods, services, facilities, materials, equipment, other things or matters required for the conduct of the school, including the provision of preschool programs
 - to raise funds for school related purposes
 - to regulate and facilitate the after-hours use of the school premises and grounds
 - to exercise a general oversight of the school buildings and grounds and ensure they are kept in good order and condition
 - to provide for the cleaning and sanitary services that are necessary for the school
 - to ensure that all money coming into the hands of the council is expended for proper purposes relating to the school
 - to inform itself and consider any views of the school community for the purpose of making decisions regarding the school and the students at the school
 - to generally stimulate interest in the school in the wider community
 - to prepare the School Strategic Plan and the Annual Implementation Plan — to be signed by the president and the principal

- to report annually (the Annual Report) to the school community and to the Department on:
- the school's financial activities, the School Strategic Plan, and any other matters that are determined by the Minister
- to manage the hire, licence, and shared use of school facilities
- to determine the dates for the school's student-free days.

3 Way Conversation Meetings (Teachers, Parents & Students)

Next week the 22nd and 23rd of February have been allocated as the afternoons/evenings for our 3-way conversations with parents/teachers and students. As we are still under COVID restrictions, these conversations will be conducted by phone and are vital for preparing students for their work year ahead (details were also sent out via uEducateUs). Parents booking a meeting time with their child's classroom teacher should remember that the Parent listed as Adult A on your child's enrolment form will receive the phone call. The call may list as private or no name. If it is calling you during your allocated 10 min slot, then it is mostly likely your child's teacher. If you have not answered or miss the call, then please make a different time to speak with the teacher. If you pick up within the 10mins allotted to you but didn't pick up at the beginning of the 10mins then teachers will only have what remains of your allotted time to speak with you, they cannot run over the time limit. Should you feel you require more time please contact your child's teacher to make an alternative appointment.

Our Prep parents are meeting with Alyssa Cole on Wednesdays and are not required to make a meeting time on these dates.

Car Parking Safety and Restrictions

For quite some time we have had to manage without our car park signs while the front fence was being rebuilt. Now that it has been painted and it's finished the signs have gone back up.

It is important to remember that the car-size gate beside our front entrance pedestrian gate **MUST** always be clear of cars. This is the emergency entrance for this side of the school.

The foot path along this fence line is also a concern. Cars backing into the parking space along the fence are overreaching the footpath, making it difficult for pedestrians to walk safely. Could all parents parking along the fence/pathways please ensure the pedestrian access is available for the width of the path.

The Buildings and Grounds committee of School Council will investigate making improvements to this situation adding to the safety of our students.

Every day there are staff on duty after school to help students cross the car park safely. Some students however are going out of their way to avoid being escorted across the car park by a teacher stopping the cars for them. Could parents please speak with their children about this and about the following safety procedures for our school:

From the Principal's Desk

Notices/Reminders

1. Students walking without an adult need to be escorted by a teacher or a parent with their own children, to cross the car park to the footpath beside the main road.
2. **Students are to wait in the school grounds for parents to collect them.** Students are not to be wandering the carpark or attempting to cross the main road alone (Parents are to leave their cars and walk to the gate to pick up their children).
3. **Students must leave the school by the gates.** Please do not encourage your child to jump the fence.
4. **If you are running late, please contact the school to let us know.** Staff will wait for you to arrive. We wait outside with your child until 3.45 and then your child will be waiting for you in the office. The school has the duty of care for students until they are picked up.
5. If you have organised for another parent to pick up your child, please let your child know. If it is a last-minute arrangement, please let the school know.
6. Please do not pre-arrange to have your child walk to the park to wait unsupervised until you arrive. It is safer for them to wait at school.

Preps Full time

Just a reminder to our new Prep families that from the 28th of February Preps will be attending school full time - 5 days a week.

March is the Month!

Keep an eye on the newsletter calendar and for uEducateUs messages. March will bring us Summer sports, our annual visit to Hanging Rock, Cross Country, and we hope to be able to enjoy getting all our families together in some fashion should Covid permit.

Simone Wood
Principal

Notices/Reminders

CSEF

Application forms for CSEF for 2022 are available from the school office, school website or the CSEF website. Applications are due by 24th June 2022. Recipients of CSEF in 2021 do not need to apply for 2022 unless your circumstances have changed or you need to add an additional child however the school will need to copy your current health care card for 2022. Please provide this to the school office by the 28th February so that we can process applications for the current year. If you would like to apply for the first time, please collect a form from the school office. You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page.

Information regarding CSEF is included further on in the newsletter.

Lunch Orders

Wednesday and Friday are the school's lunch order days. Orders can be made directly at the Newham General Store on those days or via their online ordering system or through the school. If students submit their order via the school, they should do so by handing it to their class teacher or to the office.

If ordering using a reusable lunch order bag or paper bag, please ensure that the student's name, homegroup, what they are ordering and the amount is clearly written on the bag. Reusable lunch order bags can be ordered through www.stickybeaks.com.au.

Late Arrivals/Early Departures

Students arriving after the morning bell must enter the school via the office to obtain a late pass. Office staff will update the roll if they have come via the office. If they do not come via the office the roll may be inaccurate and parents/carers may receive a message that they are absent. Therefore, please ensure that students enter via the office if they are late arrivals.

Students departing early must be signed out by a parent/carer. If you need to collect your child early please come to the office to sign your child out. Students will then be called to the office to meet you.

All persons entering the school buildings must be double vaccinated and show proof of vaccination status. This includes parents/carers signing students in late at the office or coming into the office to collect students for an early departure.

Conveyance Allowance

Applications for conveyance allowance are due by Friday 11th March 2022. Applications can be submitted for students if they are:

- A Victorian resident
- School aged and enrolled (3) three or more days per week at a school; and
- Attending a school/campus located outside the Melbourne metropolitan conveyance boundary.

A student who meets the above requirements may be eligible if they:

- Attend their nearest or designated neighbourhood government school
- Reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practical route from the campus attended

Eligibility is assessed when the school completes the child's application on the student conveyance allowance system. No private car allowance is payable if the journey to and from school could be made using a public transport service or contract school bus. For information regarding the Conveyance Allowance Program see <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/conveyance-allowance/policy?Redirect=1>

PROTECT
Protecting children & young people
from abuse is our responsibility



Child safe- Newham Primary school is committed to child safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered.

Senior Student News

The school received a special delivery last week: our Grade 6 jackets. At assembly, all Grade 6s were presented with their jackets, recognising them as the senior leaders of our school. We wish them a very happy final year of primary school in 2022!

This week 4-5-6B have been writing a story to really highlight how a character is feeling through what they do, think and say and the mood of the setting. They've also been experimenting with personification and similes to create vivid pictures. Given the simple outline of a story about walking through a forest and meeting a dragon, the students produced powerfully evocative texts. Here is just some of their wonderful writing...

Chirp went the birds as I was skipping through the forest. The leaves were calmly dancing. - Aloysius

My dog pulled against the lead. I gazed at mother nature at its finest. The soft breeze pushed the meditating leaves. The birds sang and one of them made a rattle that sounded like a maraca in a band. - Henry

Suddenly the birds in the trees flew away. The lake started getting wavy. A dragon landed heavily in front of me and growled as loud as an engine. - Benji

Suddenly, a dragon towered above me like a three headed tiger. Its eyes were red and glowed like the blood of their enemies. I ran across the dirty, dusty bricks as the dragon's face looked like a death bringing snake. - Soya

A dragon flew over me. Its wings flapped so hard that I almost fell over. Its eyes were like a red torch targeting me. I felt like a red and white target. - Lewis

We ran, seeing falling auburn leaves against the full moon, hidden behind the clouds. Relieved that we got away, I promised myself to never go there again. - Sabine

I then manage to escape and arrive home. I hear the dragon roar in the distance as I finally rest. - Logan

It reached down and hugged me tight. The fireflies were glowing even brighter now, like 1000 suns glowing in the darkness of the night. - Devrim



School Wide Positive Behaviours

Congratulations to Quinn (F), Teddy O (1/2) and Jim (3) on being selected by their class to represent them as SWPBS Class Leader. Cooper and Lachlan in 456 will represent their classes. These leaders will communicate with their class and the Wellbeing team on whole school celebrations and other SWPBS business.

A big cheer to Miranda, Benji, Henry, Freya, Jett, Devrim, Jimmy and Jacob on achieving their 20 value cards last week! Excellent effort through last year and the beginning of this year!



Sustainability

Stormwater Miranda 17TH Feb 2022

What happens to the litter in our school yard, where does it go?

Precipitation, rain, snow, hail and sleet, can get really heavy, it goes in gutters and soaks into the ground, this is called "stormwater".

The water runs in all sorts of directions, picking up litter as it runs, it flows into  drains and pipes that go to rivers, lakes, dams, ^{creaks} and eventually the sea. The 4/5/6A class went outside and observed impervious surfaces like concrete footpaths and basketball courts. If we have less of these impervious surfaces then less litter will go into the ^{ocean}, because when litter like plastic bags go into the ocean, turtles can confuse them for their yummy jellyfish dinner, therefore suffocating them.

On conclusion, we need less impervious surfaces, to help ~~the~~ water life.



Managing Illness in Schools

Managing illness in schools and early childhood

One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

What you need to know

1. If a child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they must stay at home

If a child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school/early childhood education and care (ECEC) as soon as possible.

2. If a child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) outlined below, however mild, they should get tested and they must remain at home until they receive their results:

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss of sense of smell or taste.

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered symptoms.

For further advice:

- call the 24-hour coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline 1800 675 398
- call a general practitioner
- use the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) [online self-assessment tool](#)

Visit: [Where to get tested](#)

3. A child must stay at home until they are symptom free, even if their coronavirus (COVID-19) test is negative

If a person has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or been identified as a close contact they must isolate/quarantine until they receive clearance from DHHS.

Children with persistent symptoms due to underlying conditions such as hay fever or asthma whose symptoms are clearly typical of their condition can continue to attend ECEC/school. They should be tested for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms that are different to or worse than their usual symptoms. They should consider getting a medical certificate from their GP to attend ECEC/school if they have persistent symptoms that may overlap with symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or runny nose.

Younger children (pre-school up to Grade 2) may have prolonged post viral symptoms such as a runny nose or cough and may return to school/ECEC following a negative COVID-19 test even if they are not completely free of symptoms. They will need a medical certificate from their GP to confirm they are otherwise well or have recovered from their acute illness.

For information on the minimum periods students and children need to stay at home for other conditions, refer to the [DHHS school exclusion table](#).

4. Children do NOT need a medical certificate before returning to school/ECEC

Once symptoms have cleared, there is no requirement from the Department of Education and Training or DHHS for children/students to have a medical certificate before they return to school/ECEC.

Thank you for your support in following these steps, together we can all stay safe.



Vaccinations for 5 to 11 Year Olds



It's been really fantastic to see such excitement around the return to school and we want to keep it that way. A crucial part of that is getting as many students vaccinated as possible.

Alongside ventilation and other vital COVIDSafe steps such as regular rapid antigen testing, supporting as many students as possible to be vaccinated will help make our school as safe as possible.

Bookings for children aged 5 to 11 to receive the paediatric Pfizer vaccine are open and we encourage parents and carers to get your child vaccinated, if you haven't already done so.

The [Pfizer vaccine is safe and recommended for children](#). The vaccine will help protect your child from getting sick from COVID-19, help to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and help ensure kids can have more time at school and playing with their friends.

Vaccinations for children aged 5-11 years old are delivered at 2 appointments, 8 weeks apart. Children with specific medical vulnerabilities can access their second dose 3 weeks after their first dose.

If you'd like more information about this, you can read a recent statement from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI): <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-update-following-weekly-covid-19-meeting-19-january-2022>

To book an appointment

You can book at your local GP or pharmacy: <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking>

You can also book at a family-friendly vaccination centre by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.

You can also make vaccination centre bookings for your children online, though you will need to use an email address that has not been used in the system before: <https://portal.cyms.vic.gov.au/>

Helping children to get their vaccination

Vaccination centres understand that children may feel anxious about vaccination or have other support needs. A range of options are available to help children get vaccinated. Please discuss your child's needs with the vaccination centre when you book an appointment.

Appointments are also available at Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations.

👉 Find out more about vaccination for kids: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers>

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

THE
EDUCATION
STATE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments; your child has started or changed schools this year.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.





JUNIOR REGISTRATION NOW LIVE

FOR THE 2022 SEASON

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER OR
VISIT OUR WEBSITE -
KYNETONFNC.COM.AU/JUNIOR-FOOTBALL



SCAN ME

U10 & U12 MIXED, U14 BOYS, U14 GIRLS, U16 BOYS & U16 GIRLS

REGISTER BEFORE 27 MARCH

& RECEIVE AN
EXCLUSIVE PLAYER
TRAINING TOP

CHOICE OF EITHER A SINGLET, T-SHIRT OR LONG SLEEVED TOP

SCAN TO WATCH OUR VIDEO AND
BECOME A TIGER TODAY!



SCAN ME

