

YWPS Return to School

We are very much looking forward to welcoming back our students and staff onsite from next week. Students in P-2 return on Tuesday 26 May, and Year 3-6 on Tuesday 9 June.

As directed by the Department of Education and Training, all students in the year levels returning to on-site schooling are expected to attend school. The Department have made it clear that schools will not provide remote learning where parents elect to keep students at home, except where this is based on medical advice. If you have a child with a compromised immune system, please get in touch with us to discuss whether your child should return to school. If you choose to keep your child at home, this will be treated as an absence and you will need to provide a reason for the absence (just as you usually do).

According to the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the most important action our school community can take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), is to ensure that **any unwell staff and children remain at home. So if your child is sick please do not send them to school.**

As the main risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the school environment is between adults, it is important that adults, including parents and visitors to school grounds, are limited to those delivering or supporting essential school services and operations. Essential school services and operations include maintenance staff, and student health and wellbeing services.

The YWPS Canteen is scheduled to re-open on 9 June. The Music Program will remain as a remote learning program until the DHHS advice on essential services changes.

During this time there will be no assemblies, excursions, camps or other non-essential large gatherings.

On Site Education

Students in Grade 3 to 6 being supervised on-site will continue the remote learning program (students not able to be supervised at home and for whom no other arrangements can be made; and vulnerable students). These students will NOT be with their classroom teacher whilst at school. An attendance form must be completed and signed by a parent before onsite attendance can commence. Please email the school with a request for education onsite if you are unable to work from home and support your child.

Prep – 2 Return Tuesday 26 May

The Victorian Chief Health Officer advises that as the main risk of introducing coronavirus to the school environment is from adults, close proximity between adult members of the community is to be avoided, particularly during drop off and pick up. We have developed a **Return to School Plan** that limits adults entering the school grounds and protects our staff and students from unnecessary adult interactions.

We are implementing this by:

- Ensuring parents drop off and leave immediately, and collect and leave immediately. If you can walk to school this will greatly assist with reducing car congestion. The gas work is still underway in Powell St, near the Somerville Rd end, and this has reduced available parking.
- Minimising adult interaction within the school and at entry / exit points. Parents can only enter the school (through the Central Door and to the Office only), if it is essential to do so,

and for the shortest time possible. Classrooms and the general school grounds will not be accessible to parents.

- Strongly encouraging parents to contact us by phone or email. The school office will be open for parents to attend only if absolutely necessary from 9.30 – 3pm only. This will assist in keeping the number of people in and near the Central Door (Powell St) to a minimum, as this is a key entry and exit pathway for students.
- Providing clothing and other resources that we sell online, instead of over the counter sales at the office. More information will be provided about this soon.
- Observing physical distancing measures by not congregating in areas inside or around the school.
- Staggering the arrival and departure times to reduce the number of adults congregating outside the school gates

School Arrival and Departure – Tuesday 26 – Friday 5 June

Your assistance and cooperation in following the arrival and departure plan will greatly help us to see children arrive and leave school quickly and safely.

We suggest that you may want to do a practice walk/ride to school and find the gates your child/ren will be using from next week. This will assist you with transition back to school and reassure your child/ren where they are going and where you will meet them.

It is not realistic to expect all parents will fit 'just outside' each gate, so please choose a meeting point that is adjacent or near the gate, on the corner, at the park, etc.

It would be helpful for physical distancing purposes and space on the footpaths that only ONE parent does the drop off and pick up each day, and that dogs are left at home.

Gates: F Forrest / P Powell / C Central / U Unicorn / B Basketball / A Anderson (A map will be coming out to you tomorrow)

All gates will be unlocked at 8.45am by Gate Duty staff. These staff members will ensure all students safely enter the school grounds and head to their classroom on time.

All class teachers will be in their classroom ready to greet students.

Arrival

Group 1. 8.45am- 9am

Preps and siblings of preps (including Y3-6 onsite siblings of preps) arrive through their closest gate to home and go directly to class

OSHC preps escorted to class by OSHC staff

OSHC 1-2 students go to class

Group 2. 9am – 9.15am

Remaining 1-2 students arrive through closest gate to home and go directly to class

3 – 6 onsite students arrive through closest gate to home and go directly to class (location TBD)

Gates locked by supervising staff at 9.15

If your child has additional needs at arrival time, please discuss this with your child's teacher before school resumes so that arrangements can be made to support them.

Departure

Gates: F Forrest / P Powell / C Central / U Unicorn / B Basketball

All Duty teachers will unlock and supervise the gates by 3.10

A staff member will supervise the Junior bike area.

Group 1. 3.10pm

OSHC Preps collected by staff and OSHC 1-2 students go to the Hall

Preps and siblings of preps (including Y3-6 onsite siblings of preps) dismissed and leave through nominated gates:

3.10pm	Forrest St	Prep Gate (Powell)	Central Main entry	Unicorn/Glass door
	Prep Sam	Prep Jessie Prep Natalie	Lucy Alex	Prep Ellie Prep Naomi

Group 2. 3.20pm

1-2 Students from identified classes, leave through nominated gates

3.20pm	Forrest St	Prep Gate (Powell)	Central Main entry	Unicorn/Glass door
	1-2 Narelle	1-2 Mel/Erin 1-2 Shannon	1-2 Chantal	1-2 Sharyn 1-2 Celia

Group 3. 3.30pm

3 – 6 and 1-2 students from identified classes, leave through nominated gates

3.30pm	Forrest St	Prep Gate (Powell)	Central Main entry	Unicorn/Glass door	Basketball Powell St
	1-2 Janet	1-2 Gorica 1-2 Janine/Jess	1-2 Jay/Carla	1-2 Christina 1-2 David	Y3 – 6 onsite students

Y3 – 6 students onsite who attend OSHC go to OSHC

Gates locked by supervising teachers at 3.45pm

Health & Hygiene

Hand washing and other hygiene practices will continue when we return to school. Sanitiser will be at every class entry point, offices, and the Hall – all entering must use it.

Students will be guided by their teachers and Education Support Officers in regular hand-washing- not just after toilet breaks but before eating, after recess and lunch breaks, and before using play equipment.

Soap will be available in every classroom that has a tap and basin, and in all toilets.

Supplementary cleaning of taps, door handles and communally used surfaces will be carried out during school days. High touch areas in playgrounds will also be cleaned throughout the day.

Drink bottles

We are encouraging students to NOT drink from the drinking taps – they will need to bring their own named water bottle for use and refilling at school, as per normal.

Physical Distancing

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has advised that a 'venue density rule' of no more than one person per four square metres is not appropriate or practical in classrooms or corridors, nor maintaining 1.5 metres between students during classroom activities. Therefore, the previously established ratio of 10 students per class is no longer required in schools.

As the main risk of introducing coronavirus (COVID-19) to the school environment is from adults, close proximity between adult members of the school community will be avoided, particularly during school drop-off and pick-up.

Staff and parents must observe physical distancing measures by not congregating in areas inside or around the school.

The staffroom will have a maximum number of people able to use it at one time. The Administration area will also have limits on the number of people inside at the one time.

Physical distancing for students in classrooms is not required. There are no restrictions on the sharing of school and classroom resources, apart from students not using drinking fountains. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands or use hand sanitiser whenever possible before using equipment.

Physical Education and play breaks at school

PE lessons will occur outdoors whenever possible.

During recreational play, eg at recess and lunchtime, students will have extended play spaces and will be encouraged to play non-contact games.

Staggered play times will be introduced on June 9th, once the the 3-6 students return.

Unwell students or staff

If staff or students begin to show coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms once they return to school

If a member of staff or a student begins experiencing symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19) (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) or any other illness, they will be asked to return home and seek medical advice.

Isolation and supervision

All staff, children or young people at school experiencing symptoms compatible with coronavirus (COVID-19) (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) will be isolated in an appropriate space with suitable supervision and collected by a parent/carer as soon as possible.

Staff protection and hygiene

If the child cannot remain isolated while waiting to be collected, the staff member looking after the student will wear a mask and carry out frequent hand hygiene.

What if a member of my family has symptoms and is being tested?

The person being tested needs to self-isolate until the test results are known. Other family members eg children, can still attend school during this time. If a positive diagnosis occurs, then parents need to follow the medical advice provided at diagnosis.

School actions if impacted

If a school is directly impacted by a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19), the Department will work with DHHS to confirm necessary actions for the school. This may include a temporary closure of the school while an investigation and contact tracing takes place. DHHS may recommend a deep clean of the school. All surfaces, furniture and equipment will be disinfected with hospital-grade disinfectant as part of the deep clean. The school will be made operational as soon as possible.

In the event that this occurs, DET will support the school to provide timely advice and support for all community members.

This is the plan and like all plans, it may need to change. Please keep an eye out for updates. The Newsletter will be out tomorrow and there will be more details for you about our Return to School Plan, including Student Wellbeing.

There are some children and parents who will be anxious about the transition back to school. Please know that we are working toward making the transition as smooth as possible and that your child's wellbeing is at the forefront of our thinking. There will be some helpful advice about this in tomorrow's newsletter.

Regards,

Karen