

# SARAH REDFERN PUBLIC SCHOOL



Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

## Welcome Back to School, 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope that everyone has had a wonderful break and we are looking forward to welcoming our students back. **All students in Years 1-6 will return to school on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.** Kindergarten students will have received a letter at the end of last year, providing you with a date and time for your child's Best Start Assessment. These assessments will take place during Week 2, commencing Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Please refer to this note for further details around organisation for your child's assessment.

I apologise in advance for the length and detail of this note, however, I am hoping that the information provided will answer some questions you may have about returning to school this year. Please be advised that all information is current and in line with COVID-19 guidelines, as issued by the Department of Education. I will provide you with any updates, or changes in guidelines, as they arise.

### **Day 1 Organisation; Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

**On the first day back, students are to line up under the COLA in their 2020 classes.** Students will then proceed to an allocated foyer where they will be placed into their classes for 2021. The new year brings an exciting time with new teachers and new classes, and we encourage all our students and parents to see the opportunity as a chance for growth and building resilience as we manage this exciting change.

### **Drop-off Arrangements; Years 1-6**

Our students did a wonderful job last year, saying goodbye to their parents and carers outside of the school gates. We will **continue to ask all parents of returning students in Years 1-6 to remain outside of the school gates** and send their child into the school grounds, by themselves, from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January, as a continuation of the processes we had in place from last year. **We will have a staff member at the gate from 8.25am** who will assist in encouraging your child to enter the school safely and happily. They will help parents manage any student anxieties at the gate if they should arise. There is a teacher on duty in the quad at 8.25am. We ask that parents leave promptly after saying goodbye to their child, to help us comply with COVID-19 guidelines. **A reminder to please maintain social distancing on and around school grounds.** Drop-off arrangements for kindergarten will be communicated following your child's Best Start Assessment.

### **Pick-Up Arrangements; Years 1-6**

We will continue staggered dismissal of students, in alphabetical order, from both the front and back gates as per the arrangements in 2020. Please refer to the attached note, if required. Pick-up arrangements for kindergarten will be communicated following your child's Best Start Assessment.

## **Current COVID Guidelines**

All schools continue to provide full-time on-campus learning for students. Updated health advice and changes to restrictions allow schools to recommence the majority of school-based activities in a COVID safe way.

The following principles underpin these guidelines:

- Schools continue to be safe and their operations are in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health guidelines.
- All students should be learning on-campus unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence.
- Infection control protocols at schools, and the health and safety measures in place will help maintain the health and safety of students and staff.
- All activities permitted at school are safe and appropriate.
- Schools continue to monitor and plan for any changes in local circumstances that may arise, including changes in health advice or local restrictions.

Principals need to make decisions based on the information provided and with the safety of students and the school community as the highest priority.

The guidelines include the following key information:

- Staff and students are not required to wear a face mask while at school. Anyone who wishes to wear their own masks in schools will not be prevented from doing so.
- Wearing a face mask is not mandatory for parents and carers visiting schools, provided they are visiting only for the explicit reasons provided and maintain physical distancing and hygiene practices while at school.
- All visitors must sign the external visitors form each time they visit the school, regardless of the frequency and duration of the visit. Further information will be provided to schools regarding the use of QR codes in the coming weeks.
- NSW Health advised that communal water fountains and/or bubblers in NSW schools can now be turned on. These facilities can remain operational, closing only if there is transmission of COVID-19 in the community. Students are still encouraged to bring water bottles from home that they can refill when needed.
- No parents, carers or other spectators are permitted to attend sporting activities held on school sites during school hours.

## **School Attendance**

~ Students should be at school unless:

- they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition and the expected timeframe.
- they are currently unwell.

~ In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms. NSW Health has requested that schools encourage anyone who is unwell, or have even mild flu-like symptoms, to arrange to be tested through their local medical practitioner or one of the COVID-19 clinics.

~ Students and staff with flu-like symptoms will need to be tested and provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result and be symptom-free before being permitted to return to school.

~ Students who do not undertake a COVID-19 test will not be permitted to return to school for a 10-day period. Additionally, they must be symptom-free for at least 3 days prior to returning to school.

~ Students who have seasonal allergic rhinitis or another condition that presents similarly to flu-like symptoms are still required to get tested for COVID-19 and return a negative test result. Where

their symptoms continue beyond 10 days, students should provide documentation from their GP confirming their symptoms are typical for their condition. If the student develops new or changed symptoms, they should get tested for COVID-19.

~ COVID-19 testing for students with complex health or disability may be challenging. In these situations, schools will ask the parent or carer to have their child assessed by their medical practitioner. Where a medical practitioner determines that a COVID-19 test is not required, documentation must be provided to the school to confirm that the student does not have symptoms that warrant a COVID-19 test. **The certificate must also indicate that the student is able to return to school.**

Further information can be found at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

**Change of Details/ Medical Conditions**

**If you have recently changed any details, including phone number, emergency contacts, custody documents, address etc. please call the office to update student records. This includes updating the office with any changes to administration of medication and/or current emergency action plans for any medical conditions.**

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school for a great year of learning in 2021. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Yours sincerely,

Marilyn Friedrich  
Principal