

# NEWSLETTER

## Skye Primary School

### Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year. We are looking forward to a great year ahead and cannot wait for our students to return on Friday. We are also eagerly awaiting the arrival of our new Preppies next Monday. Let's hope that 2021 brings many less challenges than last year presented.

As advised at the end of last year, our building works will commence this week, with the erection of the site fencing happening in the next day or so. This will mean that there is no parent car access onsite, either parking or Kiss & Go.

As most other schools do not have parent carparks, we have looked into how other schools address drop off and pick up, the majority of which involve parents parking in neighbouring streets and walking. We understand that this is not the usual practice experienced by our families and has caused some angst for a few of you.

### Walking School Bus

One great initiative that a few of us have used at our previous schools is the 'Walking School Bus'. We would love to hear from any parents who would be happy to volunteer to 'drive' the bus by meeting students at one of the nominated pick up points at a given time and then walking them into the school eg. Corner of Coles, McGowan Drive at 8:40am etc. The more volunteers we have, the easier it is to ensure that there is always an adult available to walk the bus to school. Please contact the office if you would like to be involved. We hope to have more information in coming weeks should we be able to run the program successfully.

### Accessing the School and Students who are Riding

There will be two entry points to the school – the main entry on Ballarto Rd and the back gate. Both will be supervised by staff. The builders will be manning the crossing to the building site during the start and end of the school day. Trucks entering the site will be arranged outside of these times.

Students riding to school will need to walk their bikes into the school grounds and leave them near the container by the hot house & vege patch. Children are to take their helmets to their classroom. The area is out of bounds during the day. Please note that bikes will not be locked away until we can find a more permanent solution to safely store them. The staff carpark gate will be locked to deter passers-by entering the grounds near that area during the day.

## Department of Education—School Operations Update

Updates to school operations were made on January 20. Please see the attached document with advice on how to manage unwell students. I have included the other main changes to Covid guidelines. Please note that parents are allowed on site and can enter the classroom if absolutely necessary however due to social distancing rules (set out below), face masks will need to be worn if you enter a school building. If you are onsite for longer than 10 -15 minutes, you must register at the office.

### Stay home when unwell (see attached document)

The most important action school communities can take to reduce the risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19), is to ensure that any unwell staff and students remain at home and get tested, even with the mildest of symptoms.

### Create COVIDSafe spaces

***The spaces where staff and students teach, learn and play have an important role in protecting against coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission, particularly surface and airborne transmission.***

Additional cleaning arrangements will continue in Term 1, however the scope will differ to Term 4, in line with public health advice.

COVIDSafe routine cleaning will be in place from Term 1, which involves daily end-of-school-day cleaning, with a particular focus on cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, and the inclusion of some elements that were not cleaned every day prior to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

### Visitors to school premises (including interschool activities)

Visitors to school grounds must comply with physical distancing and face mask recommendations and practise good hand hygiene.

There is no requirement to limit the number or type of visitors to school premises, however the density limit of 1 person per 2 square metres should be applied to any spaces and activities being attended by parent/carers and other visitors. The density limit applies to all persons in the space, including students.

To support contact tracing, a record of all staff, students and visitors who attend on-site for more than 15 minutes. Schools must record the name, contact details, date, and time of attendance at school, as well as the areas of the school that the person attended. All visitors must register at the office.

### Student absence due to border restrictions

The Victorian Government has introduced a new permit scheme for all domestic travel into Victoria. In some cases, this may limit the ability of Victorian students to return from interstate if they have visited a designated 'Red Zone', or they may be required to undertake home-based quarantine on return. In such instances, schools should provide materials to support these students to continue their learning remotely, until such time that they are permitted to return to school.

## Assemblies, award ceremonies and other large gatherings

If an event is held **with external guests** (parents/carers/visitors) then the overall attendee limit (inclusive of guests, staff and students) must be based on available floor space of the venue; with the density limit of one person per two square metres applied.

If an event is held exclusively with students and staff **from a single school** outside of school hours, density limits do not apply to the venue or dancefloor, regardless of whether the event is held at school or at a hospitality venue, entertainment facility or community facilities.

## Camps

School camps are permitted across Victoria for all schools. There are no restrictions on travel between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Multiple schools can attend a single facility.

For both camps and excursions, travel to and from any DHHS-identified high-risk locations (when community transmission is occurring in areas of Victoria) should be deferred.

We look forward to seeing you all on Friday.

Kind Regards,

Jane Briffa



### - School Photos -

Wednesday 3rd March 2021



## Skye Primary School—Facebook Page & Instagram



Keep up to date with some of the wonderful things your child/ren are doing in their school time on facebook and Instagram—

**Facebook**—Skye Primary School

& - Parents of Skye Primary

**Instagram**—Skye Primary School



The Parents of Skye Facebook Page is closed group for parents only, so that we ensure that only parents are on this page if you have an unusual user name or a different name to your child please email the school to let us know— [skye.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:skye.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au).

Please note that our school will delete any comments that are deemed inappropriate for public viewing from the Skye Primary School Face Book page. We look forward to you visiting our page regularly.