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## Return to School: A Guide for Students and Parents

Welcome to the Healesville Primary School guide for the return to face-to-face learning, in May/June 2020. You have all done a fantastic job in adjusting quickly to the demands of remote learning. Now it's time to make a new adjustment, back into learning at school. At first it will be quite different to how we used to do things in at the start of Term 1.

**To begin with . . .**

**If you are unwell, you must stay at home. This is to keep you safe, and everyone at school safe.**

### A staggered return for students and staff

School staff will return to work on-site at Healesville Primary School on Monday May 25 2020. **This will be a student-free day to enable staff to prepare a safe learning environment for the return of our students.**

The staggered return for students will be as follows:

- **Prep, Grade One and Grade Two Students** will return to on-site learning on Tuesday May 26.
- **Grade Three, Four, Five and Six Students** will return to on-site learning on Tuesday June 9.
- During the period May 26 to June 5, the school will continue to supervise students in grade three - six on-site who have been identified as meeting specific categories (vulnerable students, children of essential workers and children of parents who cannot work from home). These students will work through their Online Learning on-site at school. Please contact the school if you have any queries with regard to these categories.

### Physical distancing at school

We have been advised by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) that the rules of no more than one person per four square meters, and keeping 1.5 meters distance between students, is not appropriate or practical in a school setting. We will, however, continue to remind students of appropriate physical contact.

Physical distancing will still be necessary between adults, and school staff will make adjustments to their workspaces and staff room to keep this rule in place.

### School health and safety measures

Our return to on-site schooling is based on advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer and we are following their guidelines.



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## Parent gatherings, school drop-offs and pick-ups

It is important that we reduce the number of adults congregating inside and outside the school grounds at any one time, such as during drop-offs and pick-ups. Please pay attention to the new signage.

Due to our student population being under 250 and layout of our buildings, we won't need to put in place staggered starts and finishes to the school day. We will reevaluate this before the remainder of our students return to school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. However, the following arrangements will be established from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May till Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June:

- Parents will be asked to not enter the school buildings or the school grounds, unless it is essential. Office access will be via phone. The front door is locked, if you need to see someone in the office they will come to the window at the front to the left of the door.
- **Morning drop-off:** Extra staff will be on duty in the mornings at the front gate. Parents will be asked to drop their children off at the front gate, and staff will take over supervision from there. You are NOT to walk your child to their classroom or building.
- **Afternoon pick-up:** Teachers will escort the children out of their classrooms. Staff will supervision collection of students at the drive through. Parents will need to pick up their children from our drop off zone. Parents will not be able to wait for their children inside the school grounds or outside the classrooms.

## Hygiene for students

Students will be taught and reminded about hand hygiene and how to sneeze, cough and sniffle safely. Shared equipment, including playground equipment, will be wiped down after use. Hand sanitiser will be frequently distributed, and toilets will be stocked with soap. Staff on yard duty will carry additional hand sanitiser.

## Water bottles and drinking fountains

Students are asked to bring their own water bottle to school, as the drinking fountains will be turned off until further notice.

## Cleaning

Healesville Primary School, as with all Government schools, has been given extended and increased cleaning arrangements.

## Camps, excursions, gatherings and meetings

Assemblies, camps, excursions and school community gatherings will not take place until further notice. Parent-teacher interviews and meetings will not take place as they have done previously. If an interview is requested it will be via Webex or phone.



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## Fresh air and outdoor areas

When appropriate, we will ensure the flow of fresh air throughout the school buildings. We will ensure that the students have plenty of opportunities to be outside.

## Managing a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19)

The school is subject to strict procedures in line with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) if a student or staff member is a confirmed case or has been in close contact with a confirmed case. We will follow these procedures and contact parents and the health authorities.

The most important action that parents can make during these times is to ensure that **any unwell children or parents remain at home and do not attend school.**

## Resources for parents

[Learning from Home, digital learning resources compiled by the Department of Education](#)

[Tips and ideas for parents](#) (originally published in *The Age*)

Our own website – the remote learning section

## Health and Wellbeing Support

Your key contacts for health and wellbeing at the school are your child's teacher or the Principal, Tracey Robertson-Smith. Penny Mentiplay our Chaplain is also a valuable resource and is available on Mondays and Tuesdays.

We will endeavour to stay connected by newsletter, website and dojo and we encourage you to share your experiences, ideas and photos with your child's teacher.

[The following websites may also be helpful:](#)

DET website <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

DHHS website <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

**Queries, questions, problems?** please email or phone the Principal, Tracey Robertson-Smith.