

Monday 17 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the 2022 school year at Picnic Creek State School. I am extremely excited about the year ahead and am confident that despite some initial mandatory changes, we can all support each other to ensure that 2022 is another successful year. A reminder that we have effectively dealt with lockdowns, unexpected changes, restrictions and shortened terms over the past two years. Our responses have worked and students have continued to achieve results that have exceeded expectations. Through a collective effort in maintaining confidence, positivity, resilience and support of the decisions that are made, we will all contribute to maintaining a welcoming and positive environment that will lead to student success at our school again this year.

Based on recent decisions by the government, please take note of the following details that relate to the start of the 2022 school year:

- **School will now commence on Monday February 7 for all students.** This will be the first day of school for the year and the first day of educational instruction. First day procedures will be communicated prior to commencement.
- Limited supervision will be available from Monday January 24 to Friday February 4 (school closed on January 26 for Public Holiday) for children of essential workers and vulnerable children where it is absolutely necessary for their child to be supervised at school. A survey will be sent today separate to this email. **Registration for supervision will be via the survey link. DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS EMAIL**
- Please note:
 - Experts predict this time period will be the height of COVID infection within our community, thus children are not to present for supervision at school unless absolutely necessary.
 - Children cannot attend if showing any signs of illness. Students who attend and show signs of illness during the day will be sent home. Please ensure you have a plan for this to occur, another responsible adult to collect if you can't.
 - Students do not have to be vaccinated to attend school.
 - No educational instruction will happen during this time as school now commences on February 7 and children will not be supervised by their 2022 teacher.
 - Supervision during the two weeks will include a mixture of teachers and teacher-aides who are able to attend the workplace.

- As a result of expected staff illness at the height of the current COVID wave of infections as well as departmental expectations for schools to reduce the number of staff at the school environment, a skeleton staff will remain on site to supervise children who have to be there.
- The school tuckshop will be closed during this time.
- Whilst it will not be formal schooling, for easy identification of students and WH&S compliance, children will be required to wear school uniform on these days.
- As there is no supervision before school children attending school on these days are to arrive between 8:30am and 8.45am and meet staff in the following areas:
 - Prep-Year 2: Dot Zone
 - Year 3-6: main undercover area near tuckshop
- Home learning will not occur between January 24 and February 4 as the formal first day of school is now February 7. Parents can access the following site, <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home>, if they choose to engage their child in learning during this time.
- As per previous guidelines, children in primary schools will not be required to wear masks. All staff working in our school from the start of the 2022 school year will be vaccinated. Parents do not need to be vaccinated to be on the school site, however anyone in a volunteer role and / or paid role must be vaccinated.
- **The open morning to meet the teacher and drop off book packs that was scheduled for Friday January 21 has been postponed.** Depending on any future restrictions, we hope to conduct this activity on the morning of Friday February 4. Details will be communicated leading up to the date.
- **Due to the current uncertainty of staff availability and possible change in enrolments, the email communication outlining 2022 teacher and classroom allocations will be delayed until the week ending Wednesday 2nd February.** Parents will receive an email outlining 2022 classroom teacher and classroom allocation by close of business on this day.
- New student enrolments will continue to be taken from today, January 17.
- To minimise risk:
 - no-one is to enter the school site if showing any signs of illness and / or required to isolate as per Qld Health guidelines.
 - Masks must be worn by adults if entering the school site.

- Please limit access to the school site whenever possible. Office staff will be available to respond to questions via phone (Ph 5671 9333) from 9:00am January 17 onwards.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support and understanding. I am extremely confident we will get through the current changes in an effective manner and through collective positivity and commitment to doing whatever we can for students at Picnic Creek SS 2022 will be a great year for everyone.

Further details will be communicated between now and the start of the year (February 7) as they become available.

Stay safe and healthy,

Regards

Donna



Donna Gosling

Principal

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Staff and students of Picnic Creek State School acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of the land on which we learn, teach and play.

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