

Monday 31 January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to respond to the evolving COVID-19 situation. As announced by the Premier on Sunday 30 January 2022, the Queensland Government has released the COVID-safe back to school plan.

### **This week**

For the upcoming week, our school remains open for children of essential workers and vulnerable children, in the same way we were last week. If you need to send your child to school you must ensure your child is well and not displaying any signs of illness.

School staff will supervise any students who attend school.

Families will receive an email Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February from classroom teachers introducing themselves; noting their classroom position and outlining an opportunity to drop book packs to the classroom in a staggered approach prior to Day 1. Please understand that with continued reduced staffing numbers onsite we are unable to offer this at any additional times and will be on hand to support families that are only able to attend on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February in accordance with staggered drop off arrangements.

**From Monday 7 February**, key features of the plan include:

- The suspension of school camps, excursions, assemblies, and large gatherings
- Limiting visitors on site, with exceptions for parents and carers of students experiencing vulnerability, Prep or Year 1.
- Provisions will be made for families who are unable to attend Meet the Teacher session to transition children to class. Staff will be on hand to support with book packs and guidance to classrooms.
- Masks are strongly encouraged for students in Years 3 to 6. Students are permitted to remove masks when seated.
- Mask wearing for all staff and visitors to site. Staff are permitted to remove masks when teaching.
- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) available in school for students and staff who develop symptoms while on site
- Priority access to RATs for students and staff at [Queensland Health testing clinics](#)
- A range of ventilation measures

You can access the [Back to School plan here](#), and further information and FAQs on the [Department of Education COVID-19 website](#).

Essential to the success of these measures is that **if your child is unwell or displaying any COVID-19 symptoms, they must not attend school**. I cannot emphasise this message strongly enough – it is critical to keeping our school community safe.

### **Rapid antigen tests (RATs)**

Our school is expecting a limited supply of RATs which will be provided to any staff or students who, while attending school, develop COVID-19 symptoms. Parents of students that become unwell will be offered a RAT test to undertake at home. **Students will not be tested by school staff.**

Please note if your child has COVID-19 symptoms while at home they must not attend school.

Your child, if they have COVID-19 symptoms, can visit your local [Queensland health testing clinic](#) and will be given priority access to a free RAT.

### **Limiting access for visitors**

At our school, limitations on parent and visitor access are now in place.

**If you are a parent of a Prep or Year 1 student, you may enter the school with your child.**

The following protocols will be in place for all other year levels:

1. Drop off from Day 2 (Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb) will be facilitated from 8am. Drive your car through the Drop and Go, staff will support your child to transition through the front gates. Back gate will also be available for student pedestrian traffic.
2. Pick up from Day 1 will be as follows: Prep and Year 1 parents can collect children from classrooms at 2pm. Children remaining at 2.30pm will be released to OHSC, siblings or to transition home.
3. Students in Year 2-6 will be released at 2.30pm via front and back gates to OHSC, siblings or to transition home

For other parents and visitors, please limit your access to the school as much as possible.

During school hours all visitors **MUST** attend the school office to sign in via the QR code

I encourage you to stay informed of the latest developments relating to COVID-19 by regularly visiting the [Queensland Government website](#).

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work together during this difficult and unprecedented time.

Regards

Donna



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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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