



Tarwin Lower Primary School

*“Small School, Big Opportunities”*

Cooperation, Kindness, Resilience, Respect

## Tarwin Lower Primary School

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### Back-to-school plan – Term 1 2022

30/01/2022

Dear Families,

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a relaxing holiday break.

As we prepare to welcome students back to our school tomorrow, the Victorian Government has announced some new measures for the beginning of the 2022 school year across all Victorian schools.

#### Summary

- RATs available at school from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan @8am
- One test per family until more are delivered
- Families are encouraged to test their children at home each Monday and Thursday
- Students in years 3 to 6 must wear a mask inside, including the bus.
- Foundation students can be taken to their classroom by adult between 8:50-9:00am

Full details below – please read carefully and email school if you have any questions.

#### Free rapid antigen tests

Free Rapid antigen tests (RATs) have been delivered to our school.

Twice-a-week testing is strongly recommended for both students and staff on **Mondays and Thursdays**, or if feeling unwell.

Unfortunately, they have not delivered enough for all students and staff. In the interim, all families will be supplied with one box of five tests from Monday (the first day back).

You can pick up the kits from the office from 8:00am Monday if you wish to test your child before they begin school. There will also be a staff member at the school gate from 8:40am – 9:00am from whom you can collect a RAT. You can collect your RATs anytime between 9:00am-3:20pm from the office, otherwise a pack will be sent home with your child at the end of school day on Monday.

Students and staff will do the tests at home; they only need to report their result if it is COVID-positive. They must report a COVID-positive result to:

- the school by phone or the [RA Test Portal](#); this is so the school can support them, record that they will be absent while in 7-day isolation, and let the rest of the school community know there has been a positive case onsite and that they should monitor for symptoms
- the Department of Health via the [COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form](#) or call centre on [1800 675 398](#).

Information about how to do a test and how to read RAT results, including a how-to video translated into 33 languages, is [available online](#).

If there is a COVID positive case we will notify you via Compass. The other students in the class do NOT have to isolate. If they are unwell they will be sent home and asked to have a Rapid Test before returning to school.

### **Vaccination requirements**

Parents and carers must have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exception (with limited exceptions) to enter school buildings. They must first QR in and show their certificate at the office. They must wear a face mask at all times inside.

All staff working in schools need to be fully vaccinated or have a verified medical exception.

COVID-19 vaccinations for students are not required for them to attend school but vaccination for students is highly encouraged. If your child has not yet had their first dose, please try to organise this as soon as possible. For more information on how to book a vaccination, including important information about vaccination for children aged 5 to 11, visit [Vaccination information for children and teenagers](#).

### **Ventilation**

We will also make sure that classrooms are well ventilated by opening windows and doors, to minimise the risk of infection. We have received three air purifiers, which are in all classrooms as an added safety measure.

### **Foundation Students**

An adult can enter the school grounds between 8:50am – 9:00am in the first week to bring their Foundation student to their classroom door. Please do not enter the school grounds before 8:50am, as we wish to minimise the exposure between adults and our students. Take your child straight to the classroom steps and say your “*Good Lucks and Have Fun*”. Remember; if you are confident, they will be confident.

The classroom teacher will be there to greet them and take them into the classroom. They will have a choice of activities set out for them to begin their day. Please leave the school grounds immediately. You do not have to QR check in.

### **Vital COVIDSafe steps**

Hand hygiene, mask wearing, and social distancing will continue wherever possible in Term 1.

### **Staffing our school**

I know many of you will have questions about what happens if your child’s teacher gets COVID-19. We will be able to bring in extra teachers and other staff if we need them, and we will be doing everything that we can to make sure our school stays safe and open. Therefore, please do not enter classrooms, wear a mask when entering the office and show your vaccination tick.

### **Other information about school operations**

Our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program will begin on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February – please see the school website for details.

Division swimming will be held virtually to minimise students from different schools mixing – more details to come.

There's no doubt that this term is going to be challenging for all of us, but we are also very excited to kick off the school year and welcome back all of our students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

*Jennifer Cox*

Principal