



Mortlake P-12 College
MORTLAKE MEMO
A WEEKLY UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

School: 5599 2204

WEEK 1 TERM 4 Parent Update

Welcome back. I hope you are as excited as me to have everyone back on deck from Tomorrow. Below is an information overload please take the time to read the information carefully. Next Wednesday we will recommence our regular weekly newsletter.

Return to School Plan Term 4

Thursday 8th

All students P-12 resume full time at school.

Please remember we will be still social distancing, sanitising and students from Year 6 upwards wearing a mask. Please remember we must wear broad brimmed hats from Monday 12th of October.

Term 4 COVID Guidelines - DET

Student Attendance

All students are expected to attend on site. Schools are not expected to provide remote and flexible learning where parents or carers of students elect to keep their child at home, except where this is based on medical advice. We will need written confirmation of this for our school records.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The mental health and wellbeing of principals, teachers, school staff and students is a priority.

For students

- The [Mental Health Toolkit](#) has advice and resources to support student mental health and wellbeing. This includes advice on positive mental health promotion, curriculum support, how to

identify and access support as well as parent- and student-specific pages.

- In addition, the [Quick Guide to Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Resources](#) highlights the most relevant evidence-based resources for teachers, parents and students.

If you have any concerns with your children returning to school, please phone the school and we can provide assistance for you.

Practise Good Hygiene

All staff, students and visitors to schools should undertake regular hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school, before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet.

Students should bring their own water bottle for use at school, as students should not drink directly from drinking fountains at this time. Taps may be used to refill water bottles.

Sharing of food should not occur.

Use non-contact greetings (not shaking hands, hugging or kissing).

Ensuring Physical Distancing

A variety of strategies to support physical distancing among all students and staff should be pursued, where possible.

A face mask provides protection when physical distance cannot be maintained. Physical distancing is not practical when providing direct care. In this situation a face mask together with standard precautions, including hand hygiene, are important for infection control.

Students **should** practise physical distancing where possible. Maintaining a physical distance of 1.5 meters will not always be practical in the school environment and may be particularly challenging in the younger years of primary school. In these contexts, a combination of health and safety measures should be utilised to reduce risk.

Face Masks in Schools

All school-based staff and students from Year 6 – Year 12 must wear face masks at school, and when travelling to and from school. Schools must ensure that staff/students wear a face masks when required.

A face mask that covers the nose and mouth is now the only permitted type of face covering. Face shields, scarves or bandanas do not meet these requirements.

Face mask breaks are allowed for staff and students during the day, but they should be kept brief, when seated outdoors having lunch and physically distanced.

Based on the advice of the Acting Deputy Chief Health Officer, given the current levels of community transmission in Victoria, **mandatory temperature testing of all students on arrival to schools will not be required in Term 4.**

Make Hand Hygiene Easy

Hand sanitiser should be made available at entry points to classrooms. Age-appropriate education and reminders about hand hygiene should be provided.

Limit School Access: Visitors to Schools and School Tours

Visitors to school grounds must be limited to those delivering or supporting essential school services and operations (such as student health and wellbeing services, and safety, cleaning and maintenance workers). Visitors to school grounds must comply with physical distancing and face mask advice set out in this Operations Guide and practise good hand hygiene.

To support contact tracing, schools must keep 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. Schools can use existing mechanisms such as visitor sign-in procedures, student attendance records and staffing rosters to record this information.

Parent volunteers must not attend school at this time.

No face to face Parent-teacher information sessions and interviews can be conducted at the moment

Children with disability starting school in 2021, are permitted to attend on site for individual assessments required for enrolment and transition planning that cannot be done remotely, including for the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD).

Small group kinder-to-school transition activities are permitted in schools in regional Victoria, such as parents, educators and children meeting a Prep teacher in a school environment. Group size should not

exceed 10 people and no intermixing with other students at the school should occur.

We are working on information tours for new Prep students beginning in early November.

Transitions and End-of-Year Events and Gatherings

Face-to-face school assemblies and other non-essential large gatherings must be postponed or adapted considering use of technology.

We are hoping to have some kind of celebration events later in the year even if they are outside.

Camps and Excursions

School camps can resume for single schools in regional Victoria and to regional destinations only.

We will assess what we may be able to fit into our program over the next few weeks. If possible, I would like to offer an experience to each year level if we can even if it is just a day excursion.

School Buses and Transport

As schools resume on-site learning, all school bus services will resume with their regular timetables.

Upcoming Key Dates for Term 4

Monday 19th October: Start of Exams

Thursday 22nd October: Footy Colours Day

Friday 23rd October: AFL Grand Final Public Holiday

Friday 30th October: Year 12 Last Day

Monday 2nd November: Curriculum Day

Tuesday 3rd November: Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 10th November: English Exam

**Tuesday 8th December
Presentation/Celebration Night**

All the best - Mr Forrest

