



Wales Street Primary School Newsletter

Thursday 14th October 2021

Term 4, Number 1

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- Thriving Kids Webinar

The yard is supervised before school from 8:45am and after school until 3:45pm. Students must not be dropped off and left alone before 8:45am. Any student in the yard unsupervised before 8:45am will need to go to our school aged care program.

Recess: 10.40–11:10am

Lunch eating time: 12:50-1:00pm

Lunchtime: 1:00–1:50pm

School Finish: 3.30pm

An important reminder that any change of address or contact phone numbers needs to be updated with the office. This includes work numbers and emergency contacts. It is very important that the school is able to contact families in the event of an accident or illness.

From the Principal

We have started the term with a fresh new look, with the building sheds gone and new renovated spaces to enjoy. Unfortunately, we have been delayed in returning to school and are still in remote learning with a roadmap for return ahead of us. There is much to be done to prepare for this staged return to onsite learning, and we are sure that the children are looking forward to the day that they can re enter the classroom and see their friends and teachers.

The roadmap for return:

Grade	Date of return	Days of week
Foundation	18 October	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Grade 1	21 October	Thursday, Friday
Grade 2	21 October	Thursday, Friday
Grade 3	26 October	Tuesday, Wednesday
Grade 4	26 October	Tuesday, Wednesday
Grade 5	28 October	Thursday, Friday
Grade 6	28 October	Thursday, Friday

We will provide more details on the logistics of routines, gate entries and expectations through the Compass Newsfeed.

Building completion

Our building project has now reached completion and we were able to move into the Wales building over the holidays. Like any big move, we are still settling into a new location, waiting on furniture and last-minute touches need to be completed. The renovation has provided the school with larger office and staff workspaces. Four grade 2 classes have been moved into the Wales building for Term 4 and will be ready for the return of students in week 3. Grade 1 A and Grade 1D will also move to the Wales building. The administration office and access to the school during the school day will be through the Wales Street gates and visitors will need to sign in at the office.

Currently only essential visitors are allowed onsite. Once classes start returning, we will send through information about drop off and collection areas for each grade level. The yard is now free of work sheds and has been cleaned. The children will now have the basketball courts available for play time and outdoor activities.

eSmart
alannah & madeline foundation



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PYP Learner Profile Attributes

- Open Minded
- Principled
- Reflective
- Courageous
- Thinker
- Caring
- Communication
- Inquirer
- Knowledgeable
- Well Balanced



Curriculum days changed

Due to the current restrictions and the return to school roadmap, we have postponed our two-day PYP professional learning /curriculum days that were scheduled for late October until next year-Term one.

We still have two school-based curriculum days left for this year. As this has been an extremely unusual year with many pivots and changes to the teaching and learning program delivery, we have decided to schedule a curriculum day on Monday 13th of December. Teaching teams will use this day to meet in new teams, reflect on the Program of Inquiry and analyse data to inform 2022 planning. The second curriculum day is yet to be determined and could possibly be carried forward to 2022. For our new parents, that will mean that this day will be a pupil free day. SAC will be available, and bookings are essential.

Planning for 2022

During this term I will be working with staff to finalise class arrangements, set budgets and plan programs for next year. Apart from Year 6 students, could parents/guardians who currently have children attending Wales Street, and are planning to transfer at the end of this year, please notify the school office by Friday

PYP Attitudes

- Appreciation
- Enthusiasm
- Cooperation
- Creativity
- Confidence
- Commitment
- Curiosity
- Integrity
- Empathy
- Tolerance
- Independence
- Respect

22nd October. It is vital we have accurate information on our enrolment numbers as it greatly influences planning of classes and staffing for 2022.

Camps, excursions, and swimming plans

The November Grade 5 camp may not go ahead due to the restrictions in place. Swimming is still to be decided and is on hold for the time being. The DET will inform us shortly about whether or not these events will be able to go ahead. If swimming pools open up later in the year, we could possibly be able to organise a short intensive program for the Foundation and Grade 1 classes. These events and excursions are determined by the health advice that we receive from the Department of Health and Department of Education, and may change later in the term.

School Sun Smart Policy (Hats now required)

A reminder about the school Sun Smart policy. All students should be wearing broadbrim hats when they return to school. The WSPS Sun Smart has been developed to ensure that all students and staff of the school are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. Please ensure that your child's hat is labelled with their name and that they have their hat with them when they return to school this term.

Masks for students

We know that mask wearing is here to stay while the pandemic continues, and for our community to stay safe and our school to stay open, we need to do everything we can to minimise transmission. Last Friday, the Chief Health Officer determined that all students in grade 3-6 are mandated to wear masks indoors and it is strongly recommended for students in Foundation to grade 2 wear them as well. It will be parents' choice whether you choose to send your Foundation -Grade2 child to school with a mask.

I encourage parents to familiarise their children in the practice of wearing a mask and looking after their own mask. Masks need to be labelled with names daily if using a disposable mask and cloth masks need to be labelled as well. We will have a limited supply of disposable masks available for students upon request.

We appreciate this will be challenge for students, but we will work together to make our school a mask friendly school. We expect all grade 3-6 students to wear masks when they return to onsite learning from October 18.

The Victorian Chief Health Officer strongly recommends:

- School staff are expected to wear a face mask while teaching wherever practicable, except where removal of a face mask is necessary for effective communication.
- School staff and secondary school students aged 12 or older must always wear a face mask indoors and outdoors at school, including when attending an Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program, unless a lawful exception applies.

Managing a confirmed case of COVID-19

If we do get notification of a positive case, the Department has comprehensive procedures in place with the Department of Health to manage suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in schools.

Close contacts are contacted directly by the Department of Health regarding requirements for quarantine and testing; the student or staff member should not attend school until they are advised by the Department of Health that their quarantine has concluded. Students or staff members should bring a copy of the

clearance message (text, email or letter) they receive from the Department of Health indicating that their quarantine period has ended when they return to school.

Transitions

We know some families are worried that their child may have to repeat a year due to the disruptions of coronavirus (COVID-19). There is little evidence to support the benefits of repeating a year to catch up. Instead, schools will use teaching strategies that draw on the best evidence available to help students meet their learning needs. As announced earlier this month, **the Tutor Learning Initiative** has been funded for a second year and will provide all Victorian government schools with targeted learning support to address the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been fortunate to receive the same allocation of funding as this year, and so we will be able to continue to support student learning with small group intervention in 2022.

Little acts of kindness

Our foundation teachers have been working with the students to write letters to health care workers to say thank you for their help during the pandemic. We have recently asked our students to write letters for the residents of our local aged care facility and we received a wonderful response. Our letter box on Speight Street is available for any other letters from children for these two worthy causes.



A return to school plan

We will inform parents and carers through Compass, of the plan for the staggered return to school by the end of the week. We are waiting on final advice from the DET to provide you with the most up to date information that we have available.

What's happening in this month's School Council? School Councillor Report

This new column is all about providing the Wales Street school community with the latest updates from the school council, from those who are on it. First up is me, the council President. It's my job along with the School Council to support Jenny and the wonderful Wales Street teachers and staff.

At our September meeting we discussed the challenges of remote learning and the amazing job the teachers, students and staff are doing in this extended lockdown. The council passed on how hugely grateful to everyone they are for all their efforts. So thank you to all.

We were briefed on the first results in for NAPLAN for 2021. Grade 3 and 5 have met or exceeded state averages in literacy and numeracy. Well done to all the

students for achieving this great result despite challenges this year. Check out the results to be posted on the school website.

In November, the school will have a Rolling Facilities Audit undertaken. It will be important that we document issues in our facilities to ensure we are adequately funded for these much-needed upgrades and maintenance.

On the topic of buildings and grounds, we have applied for a number of State Government grants recently to continue the further upgrade of our grounds. Fingers crossed!

It's been a really challenging year but there is much to look forward to at Wales Street Primary.

Thriving kids – Engaging with Sport, the Arts & Community



FREE WEBINAR: THRIVING KIDS - ENGAGING
WITH SPORT, THE ARTS, COMMUNITY & JOYFUL ACTIVITIES

Dr Billy Garvey, Paediatrician Royal Children's Hospital
Lucy Stephan, Olympic Rower & Gold Medallist
**Mark Milligan, Former A League Champion,
Socceroos Captain & Olympian**
**Nyadol Nyuon, Lawyer, writer &
media commentator**

Facilitated by Dr Claire Nogie, Paediatrician
Royal Children's Hospital

7.00pm Thursday October 14th 2021

See <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=818782&> to book.

This FREE webinar will include stories & practical strategies to inspire and encourage (re)engaging with sport, the arts & community activities that bring joy, social connections and self worth. Dr Billy Garvey & an incredible panel will reflect on their own experiences of community, overcoming adversity & important adults along their journey to success.

This event will be recorded, please register to receive the recording
Thursday 14 October 2021 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM (UTC+11)