



31 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Thanks again for your support as we keep working together to respond to COVID-19. We're so pleased to welcome our students back to school this week! With safety, wellbeing and learning our priorities, I am writing to share a few important reminders for families.

2022 Kindergarten and Year 7 students

As we prepare to welcome our 2022 school starters for the first time, **a special exemption is in place to allow their parents and carers to visit the school to support their transition.** The same exemption is also available for families of Year 7 students though in many cases these children will be ready to start high school independently. Apart from these instances, and parent/carers assisting with learning in the classroom, *parents should not come onto the school site for the first four weeks of the term. Should this advice change, we will let you know.*

Learning

The past two years have seen students and teachers working together in new ways as a result of COVID-19. Though we are returning to the classroom this term, it is possible that students may be supported by teachers other than their classroom teachers from time to time. We share a strong commitment to making sure all students continue to have great learning experiences. Schools will carefully manage any staff absences to ensure continuity.

Back to School safety

We very much appreciated your help in collecting RAT tests for your children recently. A reminder that if your child tests positive to COVID-19, it's important both to let the school know as soon as possible and to notify NSW Health through the Service NSW app.

Looking out for COVID-19 symptoms

For safety, schools will also be monitoring students' health and asking families to collect students who display COVID-19 symptoms. **If they display any symptoms they should take a PCR test (nose and throat swab) or rapid antigen test (RAT).** If the PCR or RAT is negative but symptoms continue, your child should stay home and take another RAT or PCR test in 24 hours. If that test is also negative, your child may return to school if another diagnosis is confirmed (eg. hay fever etc). A medical certificate is required for this.

Please note that if there is a case of COVID-19 in your child's class, year or other grouping, your child can continue to attend school if they have no symptoms in line with NSW Health advice.

What if someone at home has COVID-19?

If there is a case of COVID-19 in your household, it's important that all family members follow the close contact rules and self-isolate for seven days. Please let the school know of the absence



and when it is expected they will return. If your child needs additional learning support during this time, please contact the school office for assistance.

Ventilation

We have completed the rollout of air purifiers to all of our 80 schools. As each of our schools is air-conditioned, this technology will support a range of ventilation measures.

Thanks again for your understanding and patience in these challenging times. We're looking forward to supporting all our students as they grow in faith and learning in 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Whitby', is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory B. Whitby AM KSG FACE FACEL
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