



# Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee North

## Principal Message- Joanne Webster

Newsletter No. 16  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Families,

We look forward to welcoming the students back to school, in the coming weeks. We understand the mixed feelings associated with this- joy, excitement, apprehension and anxiety for all: students, you the families, and the staff. For many of us, being in the public, amongst a greater number of people is a cause for anxiety, as we have become accustomed to only mixing with our immediate family and/or a small amount of people. As the students return, the educators are aware of the importance of providing the students with opportunities to reconnect continuing to develop friendships and relationships. The routine of the school day, will be critical to re-establish, as well as support the students to find their 'new' normal, after such a long period away from the physical space of 'school'. We have missed the students- their joy when learning, the sound of their excitement, their curiosity and impulsivity, their laughter and their play. We have missed you the families- the conversations and greetings, the school events where we welcome, connect and forge relationships. We very much look forward to spending this last term, living and learning together.

Next week we welcome back our Prep and Year 1 and 2 students. In the 'School News' section we have republished dates each centre will return to school as well as when remote learning will take place. The staggered start to term 4 will support the health, safety and wellbeing of all as we return to school. On days where students are required onsite, there will be NO remote learning tasks set. Please call me if you have concerns about your child returning to school.

### Prayer

At this time when so much around us, makes life uncertain, I find this prayer always comforts me. I hope you too, discover solace in this prayer.

*Lord help me  
to remember  
that nothing  
is going to happen  
to me today  
that You and I  
together can't handle*

Amen.



## RETURN TO SCHOOL INFORMATION

As you will have heard the following now applies in all schools in Metro Melbourne.

**Masks:** All students from Years 3 to 6 are **required** to wear a mask indoors. Please ensure you provide this for your child. Students not wearing masks from Years 3 to 6 will be required to provide a reason for the exception.

It is **recommended** that students in Prep to Year 2 also wear a mask when indoors.

The school will have a small supply of masks for students who forget to bring their mask or if their mask breaks.

All adults, including staff and parents/carers are **required** to wear their masks both indoors and outdoors. School Staff are required to wear their mask in the act of teaching, wherever practicable, and except where the removal of a face mask is necessary for effective communication.

### Vaccinations

You will also be aware that all school staff are now mandated to be vaccinated, including external providers and contractors. Again, this is in an effort to maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of all.

### Entry to the School

The school will be open from 8:30am from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October. All gates open at this time. Families/Carers are asked to drop students off at the gate and staff will be present to welcome and escort them in, where needed, especially with our Exploration and Discovery Centre students. Bikers enter by bike gate as usual. This process will be similar to what occurred earlier this year.

### Pick up at the end of the day

Pick up at the end of the day, will be from all gates. Parents and Carers entering by the Car Park, will be asked to remain in their cars until 2:58pm. Once the bell rings, please collect your child/children and leave the school. The carpark gate will open at 2.30pm and the pedestrian gates will open at 2:58pm. Please continue to social distance and wear masks, when entering the school. Again, thank you for your continued support with this.

### Before and After School Care

Before and After School Care will operate as usual.

### Students of Authorised Workers or Vulnerable Students

Students of authorised workers or vulnerable students may enter with all other students.

Students in the Exploration Centre will walk to the Sky Hub where teachers will be there to greet them.

Students in Discovery to Indigo Hub

Students in Bridging to Werribee Hub

Students in Leadership to Teresa Hub.

Families may collect students from the hub listed above at 2:58pm when the first bell rings.

### Unwell students

It is important that any **unwell students stay home**, and **get tested** if they have any of the following symptoms-fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, and nausea. **The school will not hesitate to send your child home if unwell in an effort to attend to the health, and wellbeing of all.** We appreciate your co-operation with this, to enable the school to remain open in Term 4. I understand, some students suffer from hay fever. If your child does, please ensure you have an allergy or hay fever plan in place to support the school to attend to this.

## Return of Devices

As students return to school, they will also be required to return their device, be it an iPad for Prep to Year 2 and a Chromebook for Year 3-6. These devices will be sent home daily with the students for charging during the staggered start to school.

## Updated Sacrament Dates

This year, has again caused great uncertainty around our sacred celebrations of the Sacraments. At this point in time the following dates have been confirmed for the Sacraments. I thank you for your patience and understanding with this.

The **Sacrament of Eucharist** for Year 4 will now take place in 2022. Date to be confirmed shortly.

The **Sacrament of Confirmation**- If we are permitted to have families onsite, with the density limit in place, this will take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of November at 6:20pm. If we are unable to have families attend this will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 9:15am. We will film this and send to families. We will in this case have a proxy sponsor for all the Confirmation candidates. Students in Year 6 will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 9:30am prior to Confirmation.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** will take place for all Year 3 students on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 9:30am.

## Year 6 Graduation

Year 6 Graduation will be celebrated on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6:20pm**, if parents are permitted onsite. In the event that this is not the case, it will be held at 9:30am on the same day and filmed and sent home to families. We hope and pray that this significant celebration of seven years of primary education, will be permitted with families.

## Student News

### Updated Sports Equipment

Over the last few weeks new sports equipment has been ordered for the return to school. The equipment will be used both for Physical Education workshops as well as playtimes and lunchtimes. Each centre will receive equipment for all children to access. It might include footballs, soccer balls, small play balls, throwing and catching games, skipping ropes and basketballs. The new equipment will aim to bring higher engagement in the yard and success for all. Other equipment such as hockey sets, weighted balls, hacky sacks, basketballs will be used for group fitness and hub lessons.



### New Carpet in the Bridging Centre

The new carpet in the Bridging Centre has now been laid. It certainly has given the learning space an updated look. We look forward to welcoming the Bridging students back to enjoy their space.

### Sunsmart Policy

As a part of the Sunsmart Policy, students will need to wear a sunhat from 1<sup>st</sup> September. This is to protect them from the sun. Students may bring sunscreen to school to apply if needed



## School News

### Exploration Centre – Prep

	From Monday 4 October	From Monday 18 October	From Monday 25 October	From Monday 1 November	From Monday 8 November
<b>Onsite: ALL Prep Students</b>		Monday – Wednesday	Monday – Wednesday	Wednesday 3 & Friday 5 November	ALL Students return to school
<b>Remote Learning</b>	Monday - Friday	Thursday – Friday	Thursday - Friday	Thursday 4 November	ALL Students return to school
<b>Authorised/ Vulnerable Students (Onsite)</b>	Monday – Friday	Thursday – Friday	Thursday – Friday	Thursday 4 November	ALL Students return to school

**Note: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November – School Closure Day**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Melbourne Cup Day**

### Discovery Centre – Year 1-2

	From Monday 4 October	From Monday 18 October	From Monday 25 October	From Monday 1 November	From Monday 8 November
<b>Onsite: ALL Yr 1-2 Students</b>		Thursday - Friday	Thursday - Friday	Thursday 4 & Friday 5 November	ALL Students return to school
<b>Remote Learning</b>	Monday - Friday	Monday - Wednesday	Monday - Wednesday	Wednesday 3 November	ALL Students return to school
<b>Authorised/ Vulnerable Students (Onsite)</b>	Monday – Friday	Monday - Wednesday	Monday - Wednesday	Wednesday 3 November	ALL Students return to school

**Note: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November – School Closure Day**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Melbourne Cup Day**

### Bridging Centre – Year 3-4

	From Monday 4 October	From Monday 18 October	From Monday 25 October	From Monday 1 November	From Monday 8 November
<b>Onsite: ALL Yr 3-4 Students</b>			Tuesday - Wednesday	Wednesday 3 & Friday 5 November	ALL Students return to school
<b>Remote Learning</b>	Monday - Friday	Monday - Friday	Monday & Thursday – Friday	Thursday 4 November	ALL Students return to school
<b>Authorised/ Vulnerable Students (Onsite)</b>	Monday – Friday	Monday - Friday	Monday & Thursday – Friday	Thursday 4 November	ALL Students return to school

**Note: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November – School Closure Day**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Melbourne Cup Day**

## Leadership Centre – Year 5-6

	From Monday 4 October	From Monday 18 October	From Monday 25 October	From Monday 1 November	From Monday 8 November
<b>Onsite: ALL Yr 5-6 Students</b>			Thursday - Friday	Thursday 4 & Friday 5 November	ALL Students return to school
<b>Remote Learning</b>	Monday - Friday	Monday - Friday	Monday - Wednesday	Wednesday 3 November	ALL Students return to school
<b>Authorised/ Vulnerable Students (Onsite)</b>	Monday – Friday	Monday - Friday	Monday - Wednesday	Wednesday 3 November	ALL Students return to school

**Note: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November – School Closure Day**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Melbourne Cup Day**

### New Timetable

During remote and onsite learning, we have been trialling a new timetable, extending the learning and teaching time, and having a brain food break at 10:00am and eating lunch from 11:30-11:45 after a break outside. The benefits of this timetable have been: -

- an extension of the learning and teaching time for students,
- all lunch is eaten, as students have spent time playing and burning energy,
- and this time eating, assists students to calm in readiness for learning.

Students are required to bring brain food for 10:00am. Brain food, is healthy food that gives students energy to learn, like fruit, vegies, cheese etc. For Preps this may be a few grapes, or strawberries, for older children it may be an apple. It is something students can eat in about 5 minutes. Snack food, like chips etc may be eaten with lunch or after recess.

New timetable

- 8.40am Welcome bell
- 8.50am Morning bell
- 10:00am Brain food
- 11.00am-11:30 Play time
- 11:30- 11.45am Students eat lunch
- 1.30- 2.00pm Play time
- 2:00-2:10 Eat snack
- 3.00pm Dismissal bell

### Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools – School Improvement Surveys (MACSSIS)

MACSSIS is a set of surveys that have been built specifically for Catholic schools in Melbourne. These surveys are one way of understanding how our school is performing. The information will be used as a key data source for guiding the ongoing work to improve our school. Students in Years 4-6 will complete the surveys when they are back at school. A sampling of families will also be invited to complete the survey via an emailed link and password. All participation is voluntary. Please notify the school if your child does not wish to participate.

Families invited to complete the survey, are encouraged to do so. This is an opportunity for you to give feedback to the school, to enable us to celebrate our achievements, and more importantly to look for the opportunities that may exist to enhance our work as a school community in an effort to improve student outcomes in all areas of learning, be it spiritual, academic, physical, social or emotional. If you would like more information, please contact the school.

## **Language Learning at Bethany in 2022**

Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (MACS) has developed a whole school approach to learning languages supported by rich resources aimed at maximising the frequency of exposure to the chosen language. This approach involves all school staff, hub teacher, a language coach and language assistant.

After extensive research to select a language, which included; exploring the feeder schools in the area, a language that may complement our own English Language, and the availability of language assistants, the school has made the decision that Italian will be the Language Other than English to be taught in the 2022 school year.

Hub teachers across the school will lead short, language-focused sessions, with regular frequency, and gestures, throughout the week. The school will employ an Italian language assistant, who will support the teachers and students with these sessions. We are extremely excited about this, and look forward to language learning, being a part of the learning and teaching at Bethany into the future.

Attached is a link of this approach at St Bede's in Balwyn, where the language is French. The clip provides feedback from students and staff as well as giving you a snapshot of how the learning and teaching will look.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lIiZknoayk>

## **Lunch Orders**

A reminder that there will be NO LUNCH ORDERS until further notice and unfortunately there will be no icy poles for term 4 as we are unable to have parents onsite to offer this service.

## **Sport Days**

Monday - Exploration Centre

Tuesday - Discovery Centre

Wednesday - Bridging Centre

Friday - Leadership Centre

## **Hub Groupings 2022**

In the coming weeks the school will begin to consider hub groups for 2021. In placing a student in a hub group, we will be considering; teacher recommendations, friendships and the need to mix learning abilities and having gender balance. Should any parent feel that they wish to share insights or information with us that may assist in this decision-making process, please phone the school (9742 9800) and I (Joanne) will be happy to chat with you. A conversation about this is the preferred option. Please do not email. The opportunity to share information will only be provided until Friday, October 22nd.

## **Staff News**

Our Student Diversity Leader Helen Murray, goes on Long Service Leave for the next two weeks. We hope that this time provides her with the opportunity for rest and renewal.

## **Parent News**

### **Secondary School Enrolment Dates**

The key enrolment dates for students in Year 5 in 2022 who will be starting Year 7 in 2024 in Catholic Secondary Schools have been made.

28 January 2022 - Applications open

19<sup>th</sup> August 2022 – Applications close

21 October 2022 – Offers will be posted to prospective Year 7 applicants

11 November 2022 – Final date for parents/carers to accept an offer

## Summer Uniform

Full summer uniforms are required for Term 4 for all students onsite. Please check all your summer uniforms and have your children try them on to ensure they are ready for a return to school. It is also very helpful when items are clearly named so if lost can be returned.

## Bethany Summer Uniform

Dress or Short Sleeve Gold Polo Shirt with Navy Shorts  
White Short Socks with dress  
Navy socks with navy shorts  
Royal Blue Windcheater / Zip Jacket  
Navy Legionnaire Hat  
Black School Shoes

Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer our usual second-hand uniform sale for summer uniform sales. Uniform items may be purchased online or by phone from Rushford's Uniforms Werribee Store, [Shop 1/13 Barnes Place, Werribee Vic 3030](#)

Web: <https://www.noone.com.au/school/bethany-catholic-primary-school>

Contact Details

Phone: [03 9741 3211](tel:0397413211)

Email: [rushfords@noone.com.au](mailto:rushfords@noone.com.au)

Due to Stage 4 Covid-19 restrictions, the Rushfords/Werribee store will be manned for contactless click and collect or phone orders only, in compliance with government guidelines. A sizing guide for our Bethany uniform items is available on the Rushford's website and their staff are available to assist with sizing questions.

## Important Dates

### October

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – All Prep students onsite, Years 1 – 6 remote learning

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – All Prep students onsite, Years 1 – 6 remote learning

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> - All Prep students onsite, Years 1 – 6 remote learning

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – All Year 1 & 2 students onsite. Years Prep, 3 – 6 remote learning

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - All Year 1 & 2 students onsite. Years Prep, 3 – 6 remote learning

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - All Prep students onsite, Years 1- 6 remote learning

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> - All Prep, Year 3 & 4 students onsite, Years 1, 2, 5 & 6 remote learning

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> - All Prep, Year 3 & 4 students onsite, Years 1, 2, 5 & 6 remote learning

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> - All Year 1, 2, 5 & 6 students onsite. Years Prep, 3 & 4 remote learning

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - All Year 1, 2, 5 & 6 students onsite. Years Prep, 3 & 4 remote learning

### November

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – **School Closure Day**. No onsite or remote learning for any student. (Monday before Cup Day) Teacher Assessment and Report writing

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – **Melbourne Cup Public Holiday**. No onsite or remote learning for any student.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - All Prep, Year 3 & 4 students onsite, Years 1, 2, 5 & 6 remote learning

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> - All Year 1, 2, 5 & 6 students onsite. Years Prep, 3 & 4 remote learning

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – All students Prep – 6 onsite at school

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – All students Prep – 6 return to school every day from today.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Prep 2022 Transition Group 1 Session 1

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Prep 2022 Transition Group 2 Session 1

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November- Prep 2022 Transition Group 1 Session 2

Wednesday 10<sup>7</sup>h – Prep 2022 Transition Group 2 Session 2

## **December**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 Graduation

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 last day

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Prep to Year 5 last day. Finish at 12:30pm.

## **School Closures for 2021**

The following dates are school closure days for 2021. **PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES**

**Monday November 1<sup>st</sup>** (Monday before Cup Day) Assessment and Report writing

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December** End of Year Professional Development days

## **End of the 2021 School Year**

Last day for Year 6 students will be Monday December 13<sup>th</sup> at **3.00pm**.

Last day for Year Prep – Year 5 students will be Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at **12:30pm**.

## **2022 Dates**

Year 1 to Year 6 will begin school **on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022**. Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> of January are Professional Learning Days for teachers.

Prep 2022 students will begin school on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022**.