



# Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee

Newsletter No. 1 2022  
Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022

## Dear Families

Welcome to the 2022 school year to all existing families and a special welcome to our Prep students and their families, and to all those who are new to the Bethany school community from Years 1 to 6.

As the Principal of Bethany, I feel very excited and honoured to both lead and serve this faith community. I look forward to meeting new families and greeting each of you, continuing to establish partnerships in your child or children's learning, and forging strong relationships built on mutual trust and respect.

I hope that you all have enjoyed the holiday break, having the opportunity to rest and relax, enjoying the extra family time.

This year we have introduced Specialist Classes for the students which include: Music, Physical Education, Visual Arts, Robotics, Social and Emotional Learning and Science. Students will have a dedicated Physical Education lesson twice a week, and as such, teachers will let you know the days students are required to wear their Sports uniform. Specialist classes will begin this week.

We have also had some holiday work completed: The old and cracked asphalt on the basketball court has been replaced with artificial turf and is lined for basketball and four square. It looks amazing. Please take a wonder to look at it. We have also refurbished the Bridging Centre 100s room to create a Resource Centre for all students. It has been freshly painted and had new carpet laid and will have shelving for books and new furniture installed in the next two weeks. The Year 1 /2, 3 /4 and 5/6 Adventure playgrounds have had all old parts removed, so that each playground is completely new. The domes in the Bridging Centres have also been repainted. A great deal of upgrading has taken place to continue to make our school an aesthetically beautiful learning environment for our students to learn and live in.

This newsletter provides information to assist you to prepare for the new school year. It outlines the way forward, as we move towards a Covid normal and what this will mean for all of us- the students, you the families and the staff, as we return for 2022.

There's no doubt that this term, and especially the next four weeks, are going to be challenging for all of us, however we have done this before and together, we certainly can do it again. **We are so very excited to kick off the school year and welcome back all of our students.** Best wishes to each of you, as you prepare for the new school year. Should you wish further assistance with any of the information below or if we can help in any way, do not hesitate to phone the school (9742 9800).

Again, we look forward to welcoming you all back tomorrow (Year 1-6) or Wednesday (Prep 2022.) Thank you for your continued support. Take care. God bless

Joanne Webster  
Principal

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus,

*We ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.*

*Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.*

*Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.*

*Open our hearts and minds to new friends and new teachers we will meet.*

*Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our learning and the courage to accept new opportunities.*

*Help us to be attentive to our teachers and each other.*

*Let us experience Your presence in our new friends.*

*Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!*

Amen

We keep Marlene Monahan (previous Principal of Bethany) in our prayers this week. Her beloved husband Pat passed away last week. May he rest in peace.

**Important Dates to begin the 2022 Year.****Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 - Years 1-6 Start Date 2022**

Years 1 to 6, will begin as a whole school on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 at 8:50am. The welcome bell will ring at 8.40am. The school gates open at 8:30am. A reminder to families that no student is to arrive prior to 8:30am. The school day ends at 3:00pm, and it is most important that students are collected at this time each day.

Should you require care prior to 8.30am, please access Quantin Binnah Before School Program (phone number 9742 5040) or make private arrangements.

*It is not acceptable for students to be left in the school grounds even five or ten minutes earlier than 8.30 a.m. There is no teacher supervision available and it is unfair to the many families, who often in difficult circumstances, support this request.*

**Year 1 – 6 Students Beginning at Bethany for the First Time**

Students new to our community are asked to arrive at 8.40am on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February and come to the Office. This will allow us the opportunity to welcome you.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 - Foundation (Prep) Students**

Foundation students will begin on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 8:40am

**Return to School 2022 Plan**

To ensure we continue to be Covid Safe, the following practices will now be established at Bethany to align with directives from MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools) and the Department of Education.

School times will resume as normal- that is –

1. 8:30am gates open
2. 8:40am Welcome bell
3. 8:50am School begins
4. 3:00pm School Day ends. We ask that you do not linger after school, but instead collect your children and go home. This is in an endeavour to be covid safe during this time. When dropping off or waiting to pick up your children please ensure you socially distance and wear a mask.

## Free rapid antigen tests

Free rapid antigen tests will be available for the first four weeks of Term 1 2022.

The Department of Health is **strongly recommending** that students complete a test twice a week to help proactively identify any cases, reducing the risks of an outbreak.

We have been supplied with tests by the Victorian Government for the first two weeks – you do not need to buy your own. These tests will be available from 2:00pm today and for the remainder of the week. Please enter the Admin block to collect for each child.

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-97427800 or the [VicEd COVID Portal](#); this is so that we can support students, 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](#).

## 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.

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 before term begins. For more information on how to book a vaccination, including important information about vaccination for children aged 5 to 11, visit the [Vaccination information for children and teenagers](#) page on the [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au) website.

## 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 about 30 air purifiers, which will be used around the school as an added safety measure, including in all learning spaces.

## Vital COVIDSafe steps

Hand hygiene, mask wearing, and social distancing will continue wherever possible in Term 1. Hand sanitising stations are set up at all entries to the school. Masks are mandated to be worn by students in Years 3-6 and staff whilst indoors. They are recommended to be worn by students indoors from P-2. If your child has an exemption for wearing a mask from Years 3 to 6 please place that in writing to [principal@bswerribeenth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@bswerribeenth.catholic.edu.au). Thank you.

## Staffing our school

I know many of you will have questions about what happens if your child's teacher gets COVID-19. While there may be some disruption because of staff absences, we will be able to bring in extra teachers and other staff if we need them, and will be doing everything that we can to make sure our school stays safe and open.

**Again, as you all know the best way to eliminate the spread of any virus or illness is to keep students/children home when unwell and return to school only when all symptoms are gone.**

## School Uniform

Students are always encouraged to wear their uniform with pride. Summer uniform will be expected for all of term one.

- Full uniform is to be worn at all times. This includes correct footwear. Runners are **not acceptable** other than with sports uniform.
- The Bethany hat is a legionnaire style. It is an expectation that students have their hat at school **every** day. **Please ensure your child's hat is clearly named.**
- The Bethany school bag can also be purchased from Rushfords.
- All students are required to have a rain jacket in their bag every day
- Hair is to be neatly groomed, appropriate to the wearing of a uniform, fastened back, and off the face at all times. This expectation is for both boys and girls.
- Hair accessories are to be kept to the school colours – royal blue / gold.
- Unusual fashion modes that are not in keeping with the wearing of a school uniform are unacceptable. – i.e. unnatural hair colour.
- Fashion jewellery or accessories of any kind are not to be worn. One wrist watch, and a pair of **plain** studs or small plain sleepers (gold or silver), one in each **lower** lobe of the ear is permissible.
- No make up or nail polish is to be worn.

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S HAT, WINDCHEATERS, JACKETS, ETC ARE CLEARLY NAMED.**

### Uniform:

	Summer Uniform	Winter Uniform	Sports Uniform
	Short Sleeve Gold Polo Shirt  Navy Shorts with Navy socks	Long / Short Sleeve Gold Polo Shirt with Navy Trousers	Long / Short Sleeve Gold Polo Shirt  Navy Tracksuit Pants / Royal Blue Sports Shorts
	Dress with White socks	Tunic with Navy Tights	Royal Blue Netball Skirt
<b>All students require:</b>	Navy Legionnaire Hat  Royal Blue Windcheater / Zip Jacket  Black School Shoes / Black School Boots	Royal Blue Windcheater / Zip Jacket  Black School Shoes / Black School Boots	Navy Windcheater  White Socks  Runners

**Please check that your child's uniform still fits.** Where needed, new items can be purchased from Rushfords, Shop 1/13 Barnes Place, Werribee (ph. 9741 3211).

## Sports Uniform Days

Your teachers will let you know the day students require sports uniform.

## Lunch Orders

The date lunch orders will begin, is yet to be determined.

## Matters Financial

### Student Levies

All student levies (\$365 per student) are expected to be finalised by **Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February**. Payment can be made over the phone by credit card or in person from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January from 10 am and all other days between 8.30am – 4pm.

### Health Care Card Holders (CSEF)

Parents who hold a Health Care Card that is current on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 may be eligible for the CSEF. This grant offers \$125 per student. The payment is made directly to the school and as such would offset \$125 of the student fee.

Families with a Health Care Card are asked to make an application for the Sport / Excursion grant on either at the beginning of the school year. It is important that you have your Health Care Card with you when making an application.

Successful applicants will then only need to pay \$240 per student fee.

**If you received this payment in 2021 you do not need to reapply. You will automatically receive this payment if your Health Care Card is still valid.**

### Concessional Fee Policy

The concessional fee policy has been introduced to support families struggling to pay school fees. Concessional school fees are available to any family that meets the below eligibility criteria:

- Holding a valid HCC and eligible for CSEF
- Experiencing severe financial hardship
- Holding a DVA Gold Card
- Identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard
- Of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage

You will also be required to complete a form as a part of the process to determine eligibility. Should you wish further information re this funding or if you have questions as to whether you are eligible, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak to Joanne Webster.

### First Instalment School Fee

If you opted to by your school fees by three instalments, the first instalment **\$550.00** is due by **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February**.

### Child Safety

One of the significant areas of child safety improvement has been the ways in which all schools have been directed to accept volunteers in their communities. To this end we encourage all parents and friends wishing to support the school to obtain a Working with Children Check.

The Working with Children Check is free for volunteers and can be obtained by:

1. Filling in the form and verify your identity online at [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au)
2. Please ensure you list Bethany Primary School as the school you volunteer at. It is essential that we receive a letter from the Department of Justice validating this.
3. Checking the email that will be sent to you with instructions on how to finalise your application at Australia Post
4. At Australia Post your photo will be taken at no charge to you
5. Please ensure you list Bethany Primary School as the school you volunteer at. It is essential that we receive a letter from the Department of Justice validating this.
6. Once the letter arrives at the school, you may volunteer to assist.
7. Volunteer cards are free

## Medication

Where possible it is our preference that medication is administered at home.

Should this not be possible, it is most important that the school receive clear instructions regarding the administering of medication and that all authorities have a parent signature.

To this end we ask that parents only use the School medication request form. Please speak to the Admin Centre Office.

## Collecting Children Outside of Normal School Hours

If you need to collect your child before the official dismissal time at 3.00pm, we ask that you contact the Admin Centre office on 9742 9800 to advise the time your child need to be collected.

At the advised time your child will be waiting in the Admin Centre office. Please make your way to the office to sign out your child.

**Unless it is an emergency, no student can be collected at play times between 11.00am - 11.30am and 1.30pm - 2.00pm or between 2.45pm - 3.00pm**

## Subcommittee Meetings and School Advisory Council

Information regarding both of these school and family partnership meetings will be communicated in the Newsletter 2.

## Important Dates

### February

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> - Year 1 to Year 6 will begin school at 8.50am. 3pm finish all students.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> – Student Fee of \$365 per student due by today.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Prep 2022 students will begin school at 8.50am. 3pm finish for all students.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> - NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> - NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> - NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS

### March

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ash Wednesday

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – School Open Night

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – Year 5 Eucharist

## **School Closures for 2022**

The following dates are school closure days for 2022. **PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES:**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Professional Learning Conference: School Review

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April – Professional Learning Conference

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Learning Conversations

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June – Professional Learning: Positive Behaviours For Learning

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Assessment & Report Writing

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December – 2023 Planning Day

## **Public Holidays for 2022**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Labor Day Public Holiday

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April – ANZAC Day Public Holiday

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday