

BULLETIN



East Bentleigh
Primary School

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Term 3 / Week 5 : 12th Aug 2021

SCHOOL VISION: East Bentleigh Primary School provides a rich, inviting, child-focused environment ensuring that all students feel safe and stimulated. Our students are able to achieve their full academic, creative and social potential, equipped for the challenges of lifelong learning. Students develop into healthy and confident individuals, actively contributing to the world in which they live.

At East Bentleigh Primary School we are committed to child safety.

Hello everyone,

I hope this communication finds you all as well as you can be despite the disappointing news of yesterday's announcement of the extension to lockdown, meaning that remote learning is to continue for another week which I know was not what we were all hoping for. There has been an understandable increase in the number of tired parents requesting onsite supervision for their children for next week.

In order to comply with CHO directions, our school is adhering strictly to the 'work from home' advice as it is clear that movement is this virus' best friend. The smallest number of volunteer staff possible will be onsite each day to support eligible families where **no other** supervision arrangements can be made.

For those families who are eligible to request onsite supervision please see below for the DET advice I am strictly following. The Term 3 form for requesting this is on our website for your convenience. Eligible families requiring this service next week must complete this form and email the form to me at maria.shearn@education.vic.gov.au by COB Friday this week in order for proper planning to take place. Please do not be offended if you get an email or phone call from me to clarify eligibility requirements. Sadly being tired of the ongoing lockdown is not an eligibility requirement.

Children where both parents and/or carers are considered authorised workers who cannot work from home, work for an essential provider and where no other supervision arrangements can be made:

* Where there are two parents/carers, both must be authorised workers, working **outside** the home in order for their children to be eligible for on-site provision.

* For single parents/carers, the authorised worker must be working **outside** the home in order for their children to be eligible for on-site provision.

Children experiencing vulnerability, including:

* in out-of-home care

* deemed vulnerable by a government agency, funded family or family violence service, and assessed as requiring education and care outside the family home

* identified by a school or early childhood service as vulnerable, (including via referral from a government agency, or funded family or family violence service, homeless or youth justice service or mental health or other health service)

* Where a parent/carer indicates that a student with a disability is vulnerable because they cannot learn from home, and/or informs the school the student is vulnerable due to family stress, the school must provide on-site supervision for that student. This may apply to students enrolled in specialist schools and students with a disability enrolled in mainstream schools.

2021 Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey

A reminder to the 90 families who received an email invitation to take part in this important survey, that it only takes 20 minutes to complete online. The survey can be accessed via desktop computer, laptop, tablet or mobile at any convenient time within the fieldwork period from now to Friday 3rd September by using the link provided in the email. We sincerely thank you in anticipation of your support with this survey if you are one of the lucky families to be randomly selected!

Please note - A Letter to Parents from EBPS School Council regarding Covid Safety at school has also been included on the next page.

Until next timeMaria Shearn - Principal 😊

Letter to parents from School Council



East Bentleigh
Primary School

Thursday 12th August 2021

Dear members of our school community,

I hope that you are all well and finding your way through our latest lockdown.

On Monday night at our School Council meeting there was a discussion about School Operations and some of the challenges that have been experienced by staff about the latest guidelines from the Department of Education in relation to Covid safe measures. Specifically, limiting parent attendance on site, mask wearing and staggered drop off and pick up times. Reports of challenging behaviour towards our school leadership at drop off and pick up times have increased.

The School Council is mindful of the added pressure on people, the range of beliefs and views in our community but does not condone this. COVID safe measures have been put in place to minimise the risk of transmission. The last thing we want is for someone in our community to be exposed to the virus and the school to be closed and the community to be put in mandatory home quarantine. We have seen this happen at a local school recently and it is distressing for children and impacts the lives of staff and school families greatly.

It is especially alarming that this has occurred in front of children at drop off and pick up. Attending school in person and seeing friends is one of the few things our kids have to look forward to when we come out of lockdown, they shouldn't have to feel scared by angry parents. If you don't agree with the government mandates, please take this up with your local member which is the appropriate forum and please refrain from challenging staff who are only doing their job to keep our children safe. You are also able to make an appointment with Mrs Shearn or Ms Jackson if you need to discuss concerns in relation to our school but we ask that you remain respectful when doing so.

The reason that many of us choose East Bentleigh P.S. is for the community, rich curriculum and care provided, please remain respectful and keep the greater good and our children in mind.

If parents require any further information on the management of schools during COVID-19 please visit [COVID-19 advice for parents, carers and guardians](#) or to ask questions about COVID-19 and education settings call 1800 338 663.

Take care and stay well,

Lisa Vance
School Council President - On behalf of the School Council