

BULLETIN



East Bentleigh
Primary School

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Term 4 / Week 5 : 4th Nov 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,

How wonderful it is to have a school full of the exuberant energy of our children, back where they belong, learning and growing along with their peers. As the days pass and we slip back into our new familiar routines I look forward to welcoming the children who are yet to return to school this year. Much learning can occur in the remaining 6 weeks of the school year.

Due to the easing of restrictions, we can now lock in many exciting and engaging events for Term 4. This will include excursions, sport, transition sessions, and graduation ceremony.

Our children are thrilled that life is gradually returning to normal at school and there is a definite buzz in the classrooms and schoolyard. Our Year 5 students will soon be preparing their expressions of interest for leadership positions in 2022, our Prep team are preparing for 2022 transition programs, Year 6 are working on their graduation books and the teachers are reconnecting with their classes through explicit face-to-face teaching.

COVID Management

I have been asked many questions around the process involved should a school become aware of a positive case.

For possible future reference, this is a snapshot of the process involved in a notification for your information. It can alter according to changing circumstances and school context, but basically it is:

- a notification of a positive case is received
- the case is reported to a special COVID hotline immediately
- advice from the Department of Education and the Department of Health is provided within 30 minutes
- Primary Close Contacts (PCC) are immediately identified as per the COVID guidelines provided
- The PCC list is sent to the Department of Education
- Parents of the PCCs are notified by telephone and those students and staff are sent home
- Unvaccinated PCC (students) are advised to isolate for 14 days from the last time that the case was on site and get PCR tested
- vaccinated PCC (teachers) are advised to isolate for 7 days and get PCR tested
- the Department decides based on the information received about the circumstances of the case to declare the school safe to either remain open or close for 24 hours for cleaning.

The turnaround time is very fast. In our recent situation the entire process was completed within a day. In most cases in primary schools, (as happened in our case), only one class and teacher will be identified. This is because we are keeping the classes separate in "bubbles" as best we can. This is the reason we are having staggered start and finish times as well as recesses and lunchtimes. I continue to ask for your help in sticking to these times as best you can.

Can I also suggest that some information that I have seen and heard of on social media is extremely unreliable, inaccurate and not helpful? We are out the front of the school every day and are happy to have a chat to anyone who may have a question about anything pertaining to how our school operates. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to stop to chat. I thank you all for your continued support.

Please note: Breakfast Club is back on Monday 8th Nov. 8:15am-8:45am in the PAC. If your child has food allergies, please email jane.ross@education.vic.gov.au before they attend.

Until next time.....Maria Shearn - Principal 😊

East Bentleigh Primary School acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders both past and present.

