



ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL LITHGOW

9th July 2021

Dear Parents,

Please note the following changes in response to the latest COVID-19 restrictions:

Attending School

- All students are expected to return to school for Term 3 as normal, unless they are experiencing even the mildest of COVID symptoms
- Students and families should reduce any travel to geographical areas with higher COVID restrictions in place
- Students and staff who live in LGAs subject to the Public Health Order ARE permitted to leave home and travel to school, this applies to students and staff moving from lock down areas into NON lock down areas. Please note that staff and students from LGAs subject to the Public Health Order are required to check the NSW Health website to ensure they have not been in an identified hot spot/venue of concern. If they have not been to any areas/venues of concern, they may travel to work/school. If they have been to an identified "hot spot" or area/venue of concern, restrictions apply as per the health orders.
- Students should not attend school if unwell and if they are exhibiting even the mildest of COVID-19 symptoms.
- If students present with symptoms at school they will be sent home and will be unable to return to school until a negative COVID Test has been provided to the school and they are symptom free.
- In circumstances where children or staff have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.
- If parents or carers believe that their child has a condition that means it's not safe for them to return to school, they will need to provide a medical certificate. Families to speak with their doctor or health care provider to develop a COVID-19 Action Plan to support decision-making about their activities, including attendance at school.
- If a student is absent for more than three days without a medical certificate, this will be recorded as unauthorised absence and followed up by the school.

Masks

- Primary school students are not required to wear masks whilst at school.
- Staff will be required to wear masks within indoor settings where practicable.
- Any adults visiting the school for essential purposes will be required to wear masks as per the Public Health Order.

Parents on school grounds

- Parents will be unable to enter the school grounds for non-essential purposes until further notice. This includes drop off and pick up times.
- If parents do need to come to the school for an essential reason, they are to enter via the Front Office, sanitise and sign in using the school's QR Code.

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

- Parents are not able to enter the school grounds for pick up and drop off until further notice.
- Parents waiting at the Coles and Top Gate pick up points are asked to remain in their cars until they see their child approaching. Parents are also asked not to "gather or congregate" at these times and maintain 1.5m social distancing.
- Pick up procedures will remain as normal and the students will begin walking out of the school from 2:55pm. Staff will bring out the groups gradually to create enough space to ensure physical distancing. These procedures will be regularly evaluated to ensure that they are working in a practical way for everyone.

- Parents are reminded that they must wear masks as per the Public Health Order when dropping off and collecting their children.
- Parents are asked to adhere to the procedures at all times.
- Please see attached flyer for a summary of the drop off and pick up procedures.

QR Code

- All essential visitors and staff are required to sign in upon entry to the school using the school's QR Code.

Events

- Parents will be regularly updated if any upcoming events are impacted by restrictions.
- Schools have been instructed that camps and out of areas field trips must cease so the Year 6 camp planned for September is unlikely to be impacted.

Other

- All of our existing COVID Safe practices and procedures will continue to be implemented. Parents are reminded that their children should wash and sanitise their hands before coming to school.

We thank parents for their continued cooperation - it is deeply appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Renae Dunleavy

Principal

Mrs Lyndal Marshall

Assistant Principal

Miss Cassie Toole

Religious Education Coordinator

St Patrick's School Leadership Team

Important notice for Parents/Carers

Drop Off and Pick Up Arrangements for the beginning of Term 3 2021:

****Please read this information carefully and ensure that your children are aware of the arrangements for afternoon pick up before they come to school.****

Morning drop off:

- ~ 'Kiss and Drop' at the front of the school is to be used wherever possible.
- ~ The back gate (through the Teacher's car park) can be used, however parents are asked to drop off at the gate. **Please do not enter the school grounds - parents are not permitted to enter the school for drop off until further notice.**
- ~ Parents are reminded that they must wear masks as per the Public Health Order.

Afternoon pick up:

Teachers will begin bringing groups of students out to the pick up points from 2:55pm. The groups will be staggered and brought out gradually to ensure there is enough time and space for parents to be able to observe the 1.5m social distancing rule. Parents are asked to wait in their cars or on the grass in front of the Church until they see their child approaching. Parents are reminded not to gather in groups or congregate - observing the 1.5m social distancing rule at all times. Parents are reminded that they re to wear masks as per the Public Health Order.

- ~ Students are to be collected from the Coles carpark or from the Top Gate (across from the Church.)
- ~ Parents are asked to stay in their cars in the Coles car park or stand on the grass at the front of the Church to wait for their children.
- ~ Parents are reminded that they must wear masks as per the Public Health Order.
- ~ Parents are not permitted to enter the school grounds for pick up until further notice.
- ~ All school buses will still be running as normal.

These arrangements will be reviewed regularly over the coming weeks and any changes will be communicated via the Compass App and/or Facebook.

We again thank you for your continued cooperation during this time.

Ms Dunleavy, Mrs Marshall and Miss Toole.

