



Term 4 News, Orientation/Enrolments and Level 3 Restrictions

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are so excited to be back at school today!

Returning To School in Term 4 Under Level 3 Restrictions: As our school recently returned from stay-at-home rules, for the start of Term 4 we continue to resume face-to-face learning and teaching under Level 3 restrictions. This means that all staff and students are expected to be at school with visitors and activities limited.

Further to this, under the current health orders, there is nothing to restrict students and staff who must attend school from moving between two areas with different levels of restrictions (ie if in a shared custody arrangement or if they have been to an area in the holidays that is now under stay-at-home orders, such as the Snowy-Monaro). Students and staff should reduce traveling to geographical areas with higher levels of COVID-19 restrictions in place. For more information regarding travelling between areas, see the Department's advice at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families#Travelling6>

Students and staff can continue to travel to and from school as per the public health advice.

Level 3 Advice Reminder:

- **All students are expected to be at school** unless they have even the mildest of COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students must not attend work or school **if unwell**, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19. Any person with any COVID-19 symptoms must be sent home and not return to school unless: they have isolated for 10 days, when no medical certificate is available; OR they have a negative COVID-19 test result and are symptom free.
- While at school, **masks or face coverings** are required for: all students in Year 7 and above in indoors settings; and all staff in indoor and outdoor settings. *Masks are recommended for primary students in all indoor and all outdoor settings.*
 - **Some exemptions apply:**
 - *Staff are not required to wear a mask or face covering where it may affect the ability of a student or students to hear or engage with them, such as where students are hard of hearing.*
 - *Staff and students are not required to wear a mask where they are alone in an office or classroom.*
 - *Masks or face coverings are not required to be worn by a staff member or student who has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, that makes wearing a mask unsuitable. For example if they have a skin condition, an intellectual disability autism or trauma, they are not required to wear a mask.*

- Masks are mandatory on public transport. This applies to students aged 13 years and over, and staff when travelling to and from school and during school excursions.

Visitors: Non-essential visitors are not permitted in schools. Some visitors are permitted in schools based on the guidelines that follow.

- REMINDER: Parents and carers must follow their school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up including staying in the car when dropping off and picking up children if safe to do so. [Our drop off and pick up areas will be as follows:](#)

K-2 (and siblings/students that live in the Henwood St area): Henwood Street Back Gate;

3-6 (and Walking Line/Bus Students): Front gate on Randolph Street.

Parents should:

- maintain physical distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates.

Schools can continue to operate:

- Canteens where appropriate hygiene measures are in place – ***our canteen opened today!!!***;
- Under Level 3 restrictions, we will not have over the counter sales. Lunch orders will be available for items and snacks. Please see our new Canteen Menu (being sent home this week). Exact change is preferred.

What is permitted with modification:

School based activities:

- Dance and/or drama are permitted in-line with COVID-Safe practices within classes in outdoor spaces. Mixing of classes is not permitted (except for HSC assessment purposes with COVID Safe practices in place).
- Schools must make alternative arrangements for graduations, formals and school dances that support the broader guidance. ***This includes:*** *No mingling of student cohorts; No visitors (including parents and carers); Events to align with current health order restricting size of gatherings; COVID Safe planning. Personal hygiene, physical distancing, cleaning and record keeping practices must be adhered to at these events.*
- **Library activities** are permitted in-line with the Infection Control requirement for Libraries.
- **Uniform Stores** can only operate if they: are online; have pre-ordering arrangements in place, with one dedicated staff member attending outside of school hours to arrange distribution. [Our uniform store opened today](#) and will be operating to fill online orders only at this time. Orders have been sent home with students today, and will continue to be sent home with students, unless parents/carers advise the school that they will be collecting items at the gate.



- **Practicum teachers** and professional experience placement. Department schools who choose to accommodate placements will only support final year pre-service teachers who are due to graduate by the end of this semester.
- Professional experience placements are voluntary for all schools.
- Pre-service teachers and others on professional experience placements will be required to be fully vaccinated (and to present evidence to the principal) by November 8.

Activities that are not permitted or on hold during school hours or within school grounds:

Schools must cease the following activities:

- Singing, chanting, group repetition and choirs (except for HSC preparation and assessment purposes as outlined above); *(As a result, as previously shared on Facebook and via School Stream, we will not be holding our Start Warts musical in 2021);*
- Sport (except for sport within existing PDHPE classes, provided this limits student mingling) *Classes will still be taking part in 150 minutes of physical activity each week and are therefore encouraged to wear suitable footwear and bring a hat daily;*
- Bands and ensembles;
- Emergency drills. Drills should be put on hold until further notice;
- Interschool activities and events including interschool sport, gala days, trials, knock outs and carnivals;
- SRE/SEE/VSA;
- Community Language Schools;
- Assemblies;
- School performances, productions, concerts, speech nights and award presentations;
- Excursions, camps, field trips and principal-endorsed activities for students;
- International excursions;
- Student visits to aged care facilities;
- Compliance training (e.g. First aid/CPR) is to be conducted online until further notice;
- Community events (fetes, grandparents' days etc.);
- Playgroups;
- P&C activities, including meetings (unless held online only);

- All external providers and specialist programs not directly related to educational outcomes and support, including Community Use of School Facilities (such as markets and all after school activities) unless delivered online only;
- Community Language Schools;
- School holiday programs (noting that vacation care programs on school sites may continue);

Level 3 Restrictions for Merimbula Public School, in addition to the Department requirements shared above:

- We will not be having staggered start times, however use of the playground and break times will be staggered as recommended. As a result, we will require all students to go straight to classrooms on arrival at school. **Please let your child/ren know to go straight to class when they get to school.**
- **Students will have staggered lunchtimes/breaktimes as follows:**
- *9.35am – 10.10am: Support Classes Recess – Court and Oval (Eating: Play 2 Big Steps/Tables)*
- *9.35am – 10.10am: Kindy Recess – Lower Flat (Eating Area: Lower COLA)*
- *10.15am – 10.50am: Stage 1 Recess – Court and Oval (Eating: Silver Court Seats/Grass Strip)*
- *10.55am – 11.30am: Stage 3 Lunch – Court, Handball Area, Oval (Eating: Upper Silver Seats)*
- *11.35am – 12.10pm: Stage 2 Lunch – Court, Handball Area, Oval (Eating: Upper COLA Tables)*
- *12.15pm – 12.55pm: Support Classes Lunch – Lower Flat (Eating Area: Play 2 Big Steps/Tables)*
- *12.15pm – 12.55pm: Kindy Lunch – Court and Oval (Eating Area: Lower COLA)*
- *1.00pm – 1.35pm: Stage 1 Lunch – Lower Flat (Eating: Silver Court Seats/Grass Strips)*
- *1.40pm – 2.15pm: Stage 3 Recess – Court, Handball Area, Oval (Eating: Upper Silver Seats)*
- *2.20pm – 2.55pm: Stage 2 Recess Court, Handball Area, Oval (Eating Upper COLA Tables)*

- Canteen – orders only (from Day 1, Term 4).
- Bubblers will be closed.
- **Please send your child to school with a water bottle.**
- No sport – Class based PE only.
- RFF Teachers only working within the grade or stage, not K-6. Intervention groups for reading/maths will only be Stage based, but still ability based.
- Support Class students will not transition across grades/settings. Support Class students will remain either in their Home Class OR Family Class for the duration of Level 3 restrictions. Transition will recommence once restrictions are at Level 2. *Support Class Teachers will be contacting parents/caregivers to discuss the most suitable class location for each child.*



Enrolments and Orientation Programs – Updated Department Advice:

- The orientation and transition guidelines are now available.
- New **enrolment interviews** will be booked when all enrolment form documentation is completed. Enrolment forms can be completed online via our website at: merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
- **Documentation** can be submitted online or via the drop box at our gate (or by having someone from the office meet you at the gate for a contactless drop-off) and should be accompanied by: 100 points of proof of address, an immunisation certificate, birth certificate and additional support needs information provided prior to interview.
- *At this time we are not permitted to hold any enrolment interviews on-site. This will be the same under Level 2 restrictions. All interviews will be held via phone or zoom. **For families with previously scheduled enrolment interview times, your times will stay the same. We will be in contact with you to see if you would prefer a phone or Zoom interview.***
- Schools operating under Level 3 and Level 2 settings can conduct orientation and transition activities on the school site with restrictions, in align with COVID-Safe practices, as follows.
- **Parents and carers are only permitted to drop off and pick up their child and must not remain on-site.**
- **For orientation visits to take place within the school, the following requirements must be in place:**
 - All students **attending the orientation** must have all previously mentioned **documentation** provided to the school. This will also mean that any relevant Health Care Plans, Asthma Action Plans, Emergency Care Plans, Asthma/Anaphylaxis medication provisions, Support Plans, Toileting Plans and other resources are completed and on-site at the time of each visit.
 - Risk Assessments for any student with additional learning, health or behavioural needs must have been completed by the school and signed off on by the parent/caregiver/s.
 - Parents/caregivers must confirm that their child/ren are free of any flu-like symptoms.
 - Parents/carers are to report to a designated drop-off and collection zone for orientations, which may be onsite, but should not stay on site for more than 10 minutes.
 - Crowding must be reduced and physical distancing markers in place where people are asked to queue.
 - Orientation/transition visit times must be after the regular school start time as to avoid congestion and interaction between students attending the orientation and those already attending the school.

- Orientation visits must have staggered start and finish times to limit the number of people on-site and to prevent queueing.
- Orientation visits must promote good hygiene (including the wiping of pens, provision of sanitiser and soap/paper towels in bathrooms and the wiping down of equipment/high touch areas after use).
- Parents/caregivers coming on-site for 10 minutes to drop children off at the orientation must:
 1. Maintain physical distancing of 1.5m;
 2. Sign an External Visitor's Form and check in using a QR Code;
 3. Follow the relevant advice for the Merimbula / Bega Valley location, including wearing a mask if required;
 4. A record of names/attendees and contact details for parents/carers on-site will be maintained and kept for 28 days after the event for the purpose of contact tracing.
 5. Adopt and promote good hand hygiene practices.
 6. Not access areas outside of the drop-off/collection zone.
 7. Leave immediately after the orientation.

For Year 7 orientation programs, primary teachers and SLSOs can take students in their care to the orientation and stay on site for the purpose of attending orientation/transition sessions.

All 2022 Merimbula Public School Kindergarten students will then attend Orientation Days, with the entire 2022 cohort as follows:

Kindergarten Class of 2022 Orientation Days:

- **Wednesday, November 3, 2021 – 9.45am – 10.45am:**

Drop-off/Collection Zone 1 – **Group 1:** Back Gate on Henwood Street: Boys 9.30am-10.45am / Girls 9.45am – 11am;

Drop-off/Collection Zone 2 – **Group 2:** Administration Office Gate: Boys 9.30am-10.45am / Girls 9.45am – 11am;

Drop-off/Collection Zone 3 – **Group 3:** Hall Gate: Boys 9.30am-10.45am / Girls 9.45am – 11am / *Support Class* students 9.15am-10.45am;

Families will be advised of student enrolment group numbers in their enrolment acceptance letter. Letters will be sent home this week for those who have already attended their interview/tour.

Group numbers and enrolment acceptance letters will be provided to all other families following enrolment interviews.

Students should bring a hat and water bottle (both labelled) and wear suitable footwear for fitness and gross motor activities.

More information about our orientation program will be shared in the acceptance letter, on Facebook and via our School Stream communications app.



- **Wednesday, November 10, 2021 – 9.30am – 11.00am;**

Drop-off/Collection Zone 1 – **Group 1:** Back Gate on Henwood Street: Boys 9.30am-10.45am / Girls 9.45am – 11am;

Drop-off/Collection Zone 2 – **Group 2:** Administration Office Gate: Boys 9.30am-10.45am / Girls 9.45am – 11am;

Drop-off/Collection Zone 3 – **Group 3:** Hall Gate: Boys 9.30am-10.45am / Girls 9.45am – 11am / *Support Class* students 9.15am – 10.45am;

- **Wednesday, November 17, 2021 – 9.30am-12.00pm.**

Drop-off/Collection Zone 1 – **Group 1:** Back Gate on Henwood Street: Boys 9.30am-11.45am / Girls 9.45am – 12pm;

Drop-off/Collection Zone 2 – **Group 2:** Administration Office Gate: Boys 9.30am-11.45am / Girls 9.45am – 12pm;

Drop-off/Collection Zone 3 – **Group 3:** Hall Gate: Boys 9.30am-11.45am / Girls 9.45am – 12.00pm / *Support Class* students 9.15am – 11.45am.

We are very excited to be back at school for onsite learning and we are all looking forward to commencing our 2022 Kindergarten Orientation Program.

If you have any questions about Term 4, Level 3 restrictions or our Orientation Program, please contact our school on (02) 64951266 during school hours, or send us an email to: merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Regards,

Michelle Hulme
Principal