



News from Scott

Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop School,

Our school constantly strives to be:

A Christ centered community which challenges students to develop their unique gifts and talents through a supportive partnership of school, parents and parish.

As we begin to welcome Kindergarten and Year 1 students back to school next week I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that masks are strongly recommended for all students. All staff onsite from Monday 18th October will be fully vaccinated and will be wearing masks.

Students will return to school in full summer uniform. Penrith Lowes store has reopened from Monday 11th October and they are holding a 20% off sale on Thursday 14th to Saturday 16th October.

If you require items from our 2nd hand uniform shop at school, please contact the office on 02 4724 3200.

Sports days are as follows:

Monday - Year 3 & 4

Tuesday - Year 1, Year 5 & Year 6

Wednesday - Kindergarten, Year 1 & Year 2

Busways have confirmed that they will be operating to the normal school timetable from Monday 18th October. They strongly recommend that all students wear face masks.

In the coming weeks, we look forward to sharing with you information regarding the orientation program for our Kindergarten 2022 students.

On the following page, you will find further information from our Executive Director, Gregory Whitby.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan - Principal

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 18th October
Kindergarten and Year 1
students return to school

Monday 25th October
Year 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
students return to school



8 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Yesterday the NSW Government again changed the dates for some students to return to school. The new plan will still see Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 12 students back at school on Monday 18 October with all other students expected to return on Monday 25 October. Our staff are really looking forward to welcoming their students back!

For many families, this news will bring joy as students are able to return to school and reconnect with their friends and teachers sooner. We understand that for others in our communities, such as students with complex health conditions, an earlier return date may cause concern. If your family needs additional support, please reach out to your child's school to discuss how we can help.

The health and safety of our communities remain our top priority. We will continue to follow the health advice, which includes strong support for vaccinations. Each school has a detailed COVID-safe plan which includes hygiene measures, regular cleaning, year groupings where possible, maintaining good ventilation and measures to regularly monitor and improve air quality. We are ready to respond if there are any further cases of COVID-19 within our school communities.

Our teachers are excited about being able to focus on teaching their students at school again. We know that the face-to-face connection between the teacher and their students are so important, as are the social contacts between classmates.

Your child's school will be in contact with further information about how today's news impacts on their return to school plan. They will also provide you with more details about the kind of school activities that can take place during the term. A reminder also that for many secondary schools, the schedule for face-to-face learning for students in Years 7 to 11 will need to be flexible so that the large candidature HSC exams can be held under COVID-safe conditions.

Thank you for your outstanding support of students' remote learning across more than 100 days of 'lockdown'. We appreciate your ongoing support and understanding as we continue to work together to respond to COVID-19.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory B Whitby'.

Gregory B Whitby AM KSG FACE FACEL
Executive Director
Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

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END OF YEAR REPORTS

In the same way that the teaching model and learning model has had to change due to COVID restrictions, our end of year reports will also have to look quite different to the one we produced last year.

All schools were informed that the Federal Education Minister has advised us that we do not need to report using A-E reporting or to assess students against national standards due to the implications that the pandemic has had on schooling. Our staff have already been working on designing an End of Year report model that takes into account the very different teaching that is happening, the unusual mode of learning that we are in and how to fairly and accurately report back to you, the parents, about the learning that the children have done. I am sure that you can already see how challenging this is going to be for our teachers and school. We thank you for your support and understanding.

Is this safe?



PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL



- DO NOT **SHARE** FOOD
- **WASH HANDS**
AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
- **ASK QUESTIONS** IF YOU ARE UNSURE
OF "SAFE" FOODS.
- READ **ALL** INGREDIENT LABELS.

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