

Preston West Post

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Preston West Primary School Newsletter

Thursday 23rd July 2020

IMPORTANT DATES

Term Dates

Term 3 Monday 13th July – Friday 18th September

Term 4 Monday 5th October – Friday 18th December

Principal's Note

Term 3

I hope that you are all well and have been spending some quality time with your family during the extended holiday break. We certainly weren't expecting the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, that all Victorian Government Schools were to transition back to remote learning arrangements for the first five weeks of Term 3. Last week the staff worked onsite to prepare a new model that we feel is better suited to a return to online learning. In summary, we have moved towards more directed teaching with increased video conferencing with small groups of students, promoting the use of more instructional videos and presenting daily tasks for completion in literacy and numeracy. Parents will be provided with an overview of tasks the day prior to when students need to start them. The new model has incorporated feedback from student, parents and staff as to what worked well and how improvements could be made to the previous online learning experience. In taking this step, we are continuing to follow the guidance of the Government, Chief Health Officer and Department of Education and Training. This is obviously an unprecedented step in response to unprecedented circumstances. I greatly appreciate your continued support as we navigate our way through these ongoing and challenging times.

Roll marking for remote learning

For your child to be marked as present during remote learning they must sign on via Google Classroom or Dojo (for the prep students) before 9.30 each morning. If no connection has been made with the teacher by 10am your child will be marked as ABSENT and you will receive a text message from compass.

Curriculum Day Monday 17th August - Postponed

The curriculum day scheduled for Monday 17th August has been postponed until a later date in Term 3 or Term 4 this year. The key professional learning focus on the day was for all staff to undertake CUSP (Cultural Awareness Safety Training). However, the Regional Koori Engagement Officers are not conducting training during Covid 19 restrictions and the opportunity to complete the professional learning via online learning or via other platforms is not available. We are also aware that this date is during the remote learning from home.

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences

Thank you to all the parents who engaged in this week's Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences. From all reports it was an invaluable experience for all concerned to discuss the remote learning program, celebrate successful achievements attained to date and identifying pathways for improvement.

School Photos

Our school photo day has been changed to **Monday October 19th**. If you have already placed an order online this will roll over to this date. Thank you for your understanding.

Privacy – Personal Information

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy (<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>). Please take the time to read our schools collection statement which can be found on Compass. For more information about privacy, see: Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents (<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/Schools-Privacy-Policy-information-for-parents.aspx>). This information is also available in nine community languages.

Student Accident / Ambulance Cover Arrangements and Personal Property

The Department of Education and Training (D.E.T.) does not provide personal accident cover for students. Parents and guardians of students who do not have student accident insurance / ambulance cover are responsible for paying the costs of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance /transport and other transport costs. Also a reminder that the D.E.T. does not hold insurance for personal property bought to school and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage of such properties.

Cheryl Bondeson

INFO RE FACE MASKS

Dear Parents/Carers,

In line with advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has announced that those in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire must wear a face covering when they leave home from 11.59pm on Wednesday 22 July 2020.

Face coverings will be mandatory for people aged 12 and over. These measures will slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and help protect the community.

In schools, this means that school-based staff and secondary school students in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire will be required to wear a face covering.

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has advised that any face covering will be acceptable – it does not need to be a surgical mask. More information about different face coverings is provided at the end of this message.

For schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire

All school-based staff must wear face coverings at school, and when travelling to and from school.

Teachers and education support staff will not be required to wear face coverings while teaching, but those who wish to do so, can. Teachers should wear face coverings in other areas of the school when not teaching (for example, in the staffroom, on yard duty and when providing first aid or taking temperatures), and when travelling to and from school.

Students who attend primary school for on-site supervision will not be required to wear a face covering. Students who are aged 12 by Year 6 will not be required to wear face coverings. The Victorian Chief Health Officer has advised that it is not practical to require some primary school students to wear face coverings while others are not required to.

Students or staff who have a medical condition - including problems with their breathing, a serious skin condition on the face, a disability or a mental health condition - are not required to wear a face covering. This includes students who attend specialist schools.

Parents/carers will be required to wear face coverings whenever they leave the house, including for school drop off and pick up.

Please use discretion and common sense when supporting staff and students with these matters. Face coverings are also recommended in situations where maintaining 1.5 metres of physical distance is not possible.

*Dr David Howes
Deputy Secretary
Schools and Regional Services*

Commitment to Child Safety

Preston West Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making. Preston West Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Preston West Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

The schools approach to creating and maintaining a child safe school environment is guided by our philosophy and values. Our vision is 'Preston West Primary School is committed to providing a learning environment and educational programs which will motivate, challenge and support students to become lifelong learners. The school aims to maximise student potential in a safe and caring community in which academic achievement, positive self-esteem, cultural diversity and the rights of all are highly valued and respected'. Our mission is 'Preston West Primary School aims to provide a safe, stimulating and supportive environment that develops all students to their full potential – academically, socially and personally. We instil in children a lifelong love of learning'. We know children can struggle to achieve their personal best if they are not safe from abuse.

At this school, our values guide the decisions and behaviours of all members of our school community.

The school values we promote at Preston West Primary School are:

L	Leadership in our actions and behaviour. As exemplary leaders we demonstrate responsibility fairness, kindness, honesty, loyalty and cooperation with other students, teachers and parents within our school environment and in our community.
E	Excellence in our learning and interactions with other people. We strive to achieve high expectations in our daily learning endeavours and celebrate our successes. We demonstrate fair play and encourage the achievements of others.
A	Acceptance of others. We understand and celebrate the array of abilities, backgrounds, beliefs and opinions of other people. We value our rich multicultural community and acknowledge our diversity is our strength.
R	Respect for ourselves, other students, teachers, our parents and the wider community. We value and acknowledge every person as an individual who deserves to be treated with appreciation and dignity. We respect the work, ideas and belongings of others.
N	Never giving up on ourselves or others. We demonstrate persistence and resilience in the pursuits of higher learning and to become well rounded individuals socially and emotionally. We also show support, helpfulness and care for others and to assist them in the attainment of their goals.

If there are any concerns or questions regarding Child Safety procedures, please see the Cheryl Bondeson (Principal) or Mark Ross (Assistant Principal).

Acknowledgement of Land

Preston West Primary School acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our school is situated. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.



NBN

As you are most likely aware, **nbn** established a relief fund to help internet providers to connect families with children to support their education and continuous learning as part of a broader COVID-19 relief package to help internet providers support their residential and small and medium business customers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This week, we (**nbn**) have launched across our Facebook and LinkedIn channels a new campaign to further drive awareness of the education relief assistance package that's still available. I note that while this is available until Sept 30, 2020 we are working hard to clarify what happens after September and I will let you know as soon as this has been resolved.

This campaign is aimed at two audiences:

1. Teachers and educators (who might be able to point eligible families to it)
2. Families facing financial hardship.

We are hoping to ensure eligible families in need are aware of the offers available to them at this time.

We are aware that many people who are not connected to broadband may find it difficult to access these social media channels but we also understand that some of these people do have access through their mobile phones. Also, we hope that the teachers and educators who see this campaign will be able to help guide and/or support those in need to take advantage of the offer.

Further info is available on our website (<https://www.nbnco.com.au/campaigns/covid-19/education-assistance-package>) and I am also happy to arrange a call/video call or similar to help provide any additional info to help you when distributing this to those people who could benefit from it. Please let me know if that would be of value to you.

PREMIER READING CHALLENGE

Dear parents/carers,

Information and details on how to register are available in the weekly school newsletter. The coordinators for this year are:

- Wendy Price (Prep and Grade 2)
- Melissa Besford (Grade 1 and 3)
- Anita O'Leary (Grades 4, 5 and 6)

For obvious reasons, this year has proved to be tricky for students (and parents), particularly due to limited access to council libraries and our own school library. Please be aware that teachers are using the Premiers' Reading Challenge booklist to locate any of the books in our classroom libraries. Students will have an opportunity to read these during independent reading or in some instances, teachers may read them to the whole grade. Students will communicate to parents/carers of any books read at school and these can be added to the reading log. There are also many picture story book titles be available on the Story Box website.

Happy Reading!

Students now have access to Story Box at home. The log in details are below:

Website: <https://www.storyboxlibrary.com.au/>

Username: Preston West

Password: pwps3885

Upcoming English and Maths ICAS Assessments

Each year Preston West has participated in the ICAS English and Maths Competitions. Both are open to students in Grades 2 – 6. It is a parent/student choice as to whether your child would like the opportunity to participate.

ICAS Assessments are online assessments, designed to recognise and reward academic excellence.

The assessments are based on the curricula for the relevant year. Students are asked to demonstrate a deeper, integrated, and thorough level of learning.

To ensure an engaging and beneficial experience for all students, new ICAS assessments are developed annually for each subject in every year level.

Benefits

Encourage students to attain greater academic success.

Require students to think beyond the classroom.

Recognise student success through medals and certificates.

We're now adding a second window from 12-23 October 2020.

The English and Maths assessments are now available for parents to login and pay directly online. Follow the link and simply enter your child's details. You need to enter before August 2nd 2020.

The Parent Payment System has also been extended and will now close on Sunday, 2nd August.

School: Preston West Primary School

Link: <https://shop.unswglobal.com.au/pages/pps>

Access Code: **CBN559**

Test sitting days

Test Name	Cost online	Sitting date
ICAS English	\$15.95	Tuesday 25 August 2020
ICAS Mathematics	\$15.95	Thursday 3 September 2020

Please note that if students are absent on the above scheduled assessment date they will not be able to complete the test.

Practice tests for ICAS

If parents/carers wish to access the ICAS practice testing click on the following links.

Please choose the correct grade level for your child.

<https://sites.google.com/prestonwest.vic.edu.au/icas/home>

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions anita.oleary@education.vic.gov.au or phone 03 94701546.

Yours sincerely
Anita O'Leary

Community News

Preston High School Virtual Open Day

Dear Preston West Primary School families

With the current restrictions on public gatherings we have had to cancel the traditional Open Day. However, we want to enable you, our community, to participate in whatever way we can. While we can't run our usual activities with students running tours and talking to you, we hope you enjoy this Virtual alternative.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UdVjqFqIZ0>


You can also access the video from our website, alongside other information about the school and about enrolment for 2021 www.phs.vic.edu.au and you can also contact us via the website.

Sean Butler - Principal

Northcote High School – Virtual Tour

<https://www.nhs.vic.edu.au/enrol/school-tours-open-day/>





Supporting parents to
help their children
through stressful times.

Wednesday July 29 6.30 - 7.30pm.

During the COVID-19 crisis, stress levels have been heightened for all of us. The Berry Street Education Model have designed a workshop for parents to help you support your children as our restrictions continue. The session will be interactive and include time for participants to engage in conversations and reflections on what our children need from us throughout this time. The workshop will include practical strategies for de-escalation – to help children and families find a greater sense of calmness and security.

This event is for parents of primary school children.
It is proudly supported by Darebin City Council.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting. When: Jul 29, 2020 06:30 PM
Please register in advance for this meeting by clicking the link below.
The link will ask for your name and email address:

<https://berrystreet.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEuce6vqzwsG9T7D1xgntam91MGT17uTSZK>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
More information

E: bsem@berrystreet.org.au
T: (03) 9429 9266
W: www.bsem.org.au

BERRY STREET
EDUCATION MODEL 
Curriculum and Classroom Strategies

We will start the zoom 20 minutes early (6.10pm) for anyone who wants to test their connection and settings etc.

Below is some further advice for anyone new to Zoom but please be assured it is quite user friendly and we are pretty good at helping with any tech issues 😊

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Preparing for Zoom meetings.

Thank you for joining us in the upcoming online session.

We are very excited to have you joining us.

For first time Zoom users (or those feeling unsure about this technology)

If this is the first time you have joined a zoom room we recommend you click on the meeting link and you will be prompted to install the zoom app onto your device. Please do this prior to the meeting start time. Use this link to test your system <https://zoom.us/test>




We will open the room 20 mins before the start time and are available for trouble shooting and support (we are not IT specialists but we find we can usually sort any issues prior to starting).

Once the webinar commences, we will do what we can in the background but will only be able to communicate with you via the chat function. Open the chat feature (indicated below) and type your question. Alternatively, you can visit the zoom help centre [here](#).



What you will need?

To join the session click on the above Zoom link. Before you join:

-  Please download zoom and check your microphone and video works
-  Bring your pen a notebook.
-  Ensure you close apps, email & websites on your computer

[More information](#)

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