

Returning to School Term 4 2021 @ Alert Level 2

1 October 2021



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we end our Term 3 learning from home at Alert Level 3, we are very hopeful that next week the Prime Minister will announce that we are back in Alert Level 2 (or even Level 2.5) for Term 4 and some of our school holidays.

That being the case, if we can come back in Alert Level 2, St Joseph's School will be open for all children to return on Monday 18 October 2021. **The school gates will not be opened until 8:15 am - do not send your children to school earlier than this time.** Children can then go straight to their learning spaces which will be supervised by their teachers.

At school, we will continue to promote health control measures to limit the possibility for Covid-19 to come into our school. Therefore we ask, once again, that during Covid Level 2, parents/adults do not enter our school grounds unless absolutely necessary. Someone will be at the gates to greet your children in the morning. We understand some children may be a little anxious. We will endeavour to make the transition back to school a comfortable one for everyone.

What does Level 2 look like for us at St Joseph's School:

- At school, there is no longer an expectation for children to maintain physical distancing.
- Children will need to bring their own filled water bottles.
- Masks are optional however children will need to manage their own masks. If they remove them, they will need to go into pockets or bags. They cannot be left on surfaces where they might be touched or leave bacteria. They are not to be disposed of at school. Teachers will not be handling masks.
- Hand washing and/or sanitizing, and cough etiquette into elbows will be encouraged.
- Children can continue to wear their winter uniforms for the first two weeks if needed. All children should be in their summer uniforms by the 1st of November (All Saints Day). If you wish to purchase second-hand uniforms please contact the school office.
- **If children arrive late to school, they are to go directly to their classrooms - they are not to come into the office area for pink slips.** This is to limit the number of contacts that we are exposed to.
- Parents who need to pick up a child early or for an appointment, need to notify the office that you are coming, and we will bring the child out to you.
- We discourage parents from entering the school grounds. If you do so, you need to wear a mask and we need you to sign our tracking and tracing log kept at the front door. **No parents/visitors are to enter the school buildings.**
- Assemblies: Parents will not be able to attend assemblies during Alert Level 2.
- Changing sheds will only be used by one class/group at a time.

Arrival on Monday 18 October

The gates will be opened at 8:15 am and children can enter the school through either the main gates or the small gate off Dublin Street. A teacher will be at each gate to record any adults that need to enter the school grounds (tracking and tracing). **At Alert Level 2, our preference is that parents do not come onto the school grounds** but if they feel that they want to walk their child to their classroom on the first day, they must stay outside the classrooms or not walk onto any decks. Please remember to scan our

QR code. Teachers will be at the classrooms by 8:15 am to receive the children each morning when they arrive.

At the end of the day, we again would like to limit the number of parents coming on to the school grounds. Therefore, teachers will walk younger children to the gates and they will be passed on to you. Parents waiting outside the gates are asked to keep their distance.

We advise children should stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms.

I hope you and your whanau get to enjoy the school holidays and we can get to the shops or go somewhere beyond our local community. Thank you for supporting your child's learning over these past 7 weeks. You all have been amazing and we appreciate your ongoing support.

If you have any concerns about returning to school, please contact us.

Keep well and God bless,

Ursula Hall
Principal