



Ariel Announcements

No. 01 ~ January 31, 2022

Engage Learning * Expand Minds

Welcome to the 2022 school year Wodonga Primary School Community!

As I commence writing this newsletter, I acknowledge that our parents and caregivers have concerns and questions about the commencement of school given the current COVID climate. We trust the information provided last week via Compass was helpful, and today's newsletter supports you all in knowing the important aspects of the return to school. Student, staff and community safety needs to be a priority.

Before I begin sharing COVID related information, I do hope you all had a wonderful summer break with quality family time, some solid relaxation and all students return to school refreshed.



FREE RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

Free rapid antigen tests have been made available for families from DET. This optional safety initiative from the Department of Education is free for families for the first four weeks of Term 1, 2022. On Friday, we sent a school-wide text and also a Compass Newsfeed to collect information from families who wished to participate in the Rapid Antigen Testing at home. We have asked families to respond to this survey to opt-in to the testing at home via using a **Google Survey Form**. This form was a link in the text of the Compass newsfeed and the response was due by 9am this morning so that the school had time to distribute the RATs to classrooms today.

NOTE: *If you have chosen to participate in the RAT testing at home, it is essential that as soon as you greet your child today, you take the RAT box from your child's bag and store it safely at home.*

Twice-a-week testing will be strongly recommended for both students and staff. It has been suggested that the at home testing is on consistent days (Tuesdays and Thursdays) so that it becomes routine and so the quantity of RATs last.

IF YOU HAVE MISSED THE SURVEY OR WANT TO OPT IN AFTER TODAY, PLEASE COLLECT A KIT FROM THE OFFICE. *We ask that you please social distance when coming into our Admin area, wear a mask, QR code in, and ensure there are a maximum of 6 people in the foyer at any one time, this may mean you have to wait outside until someone leaves.*

In Week 3 of this term, we will distribute the tests once again to families who have either filled out the survey or collected RATs from the office.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: Students and staff will do the tests at home; they only need to report their result **IF it is COVID-positive**.

They must report a COVID-positive result to:

- the [RA Test Portal](#); record your child's absence on COMPASS indicating that they will be absent while in the 7-day isolation
- the Department of Health via the [COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form](#) or call centre on **1800 675 398**.
- Information about how to do a test and how to read RAT results, including a 'how-to' video translated into 33 languages, is available online.

We strongly urge families to register their children on the RA Test Portal as soon as possible, so in the event you have a positive result of one of your children, it will be a simple process to report the positive result.

*Collaboration * Culture * Challenge * Community * Curiosity*

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

To enter school buildings, parents and carers must have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exception.

All staff working in schools need to be fully vaccinated or have a verified medical exception.

COVID-19 vaccinations for students are not required for them to attend school but vaccination for students is highly encouraged. If your child has not yet had their first dose, please try to organise this as soon as possible. For more information on how to book a vaccination, including important information about vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 years, visit [Vaccination information for children and teenagers](#).

VENTILATION

We will ensure that classrooms are well ventilated by opening windows and doors, to minimise the risk of infection. We have received 44 air purifiers which will be used around the school as an added safety measure.

VITAL COVID-SAFE STEPS IN ALL DET SCHOOLS

Hand hygiene, mask wearing, and social distancing will continue wherever possible throughout Term 1.

STAFFING OUR SCHOOL

I know many of you will have questions about what happens if your child's teacher gets COVID-19. We will be able to bring in extra teachers and other staff if we need them, and will be doing everything we can to make sure our school stays safe and open.

COVID POSITIVE STUDENTS LEARNING FROM HOME DURING ISOLATION

On page 4 of this newsletter is the information for families who have students at home due to COVID or illness. The FUSE website has been provided by DET to support families in this situation.

STATIONERY PACKS

Well done to our community on completing the 2022 Stationery Pack process. We would also like to acknowledge our partnership with our local business **Office Choice Wodonga**. If you have paid for but had not picked up your child's stationery pack, it has been delivered to your child's classroom.

If you are new to WPS and have had any difficulties with the process, please email or call the school so we can assist you. Additionally, if your child has not got any stationery supplies for the 2022 school year for whatever reason, the school will work with you to support your child.

TEACHER LED CONFERENCES: February 21-23

We will be running our Teacher Led Conferences from Monday February 21st to Wednesday February 23rd. These will be available for families to book either a before or after school timeslot across the three days. We see these conferences as essential, so we are offering a *hybrid approach* to meeting in person or via an *online platform*. For families to come into the buildings at school, we require them to provide vaccination status.

Unvaccinated families will be supported via the online meeting.

Please mark these dates in your calendar and lookout for the booking process via Compass over the coming weeks.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY NIGHT

Our annual back to school community night is scheduled for Tuesday February 8th. At this stage, the school is looking at ways for this to happen in a safe and meaningful way. More information in next week's newsletter.

NEW STAFF

We welcome the following new staff to Wodonga Primary School. We look forward to a great year and beyond with you all...



Lisa Harrison
Leading Teacher (Literacy)



Kade Livermore
Leading Teacher (Numeracy)



Carlee Hill
Leading Teacher
(Wellbeing and Engagement)



Alecia Williams
returning Leading Teacher (Literacy)



Kellie Canning
Year 4 Classroom Teacher



Nicki Waldren
Office Administration

Wodonga Primary School welcomes a strong, connected, relationship between home and school. Please reach out if you need support and be sure we will work together to put the social, emotional, academic and safety needs of your child/ren first.

ACCESS TO LEARNING IF IN ISOLATION OR UNWELL

FUSE has been set up by the Victorian Department of Education to support school and early childhood leaders, teachers, students, children and parents to access digital resources that can be used to support learning at home.

Resources include sets of self-directed learning activities that can be provided to students in the form of interactive sites, videos taught lessons, Word documents for editing or printed workbook, and activities parents can do with younger children.

The FUSE portal allows families that are isolating or have children unwell at home to access self-paced learning based on interest or need. Obviously when children are unwell their priority will be rest and recovery. The Department of Education FUSE portal allows for self-paced access to activities if children are well enough to log on and browse.

This portal replaces the need for access for multiple daily subject areas to be accessed and completed on Google Classroom. Additionally, students can use Reading eggs alongside FUSE for access to learning activities while at home.

FUSE pages for parents and children: * [Early childhood](#) * [Primary school](#)



Have a great first week of 2022!

Damian Duncan, Principal

FOUNDATION BAGS

This week, all Foundation students will take home their very own “Prep” bag from the Victorian Government. A great initiative that provides free library books and key information for foundation families to support in the transition to school.

This year’s Prep bags include five quality children’s books, a ‘Meet the Mathscots’ animation series ruler, a ‘Get Your Move On’ foldable frisbee and much more. Enjoy reading through these special books at home!

Christine Forrest, Transition Coordinator

2022 WPS SWIMMING TRIALS – YEARS 4-6

Swimming trials for students who are interested in representing WPS at the Division Swimming Carnival will be held next Monday February 7th.

Students were provided with the opportunity to register for the trials today. If your child/ren did not register but would like to participate then **late registrations will be accepted on Tuesday 1st February.**

The trials are for confident, experienced swimmers only. Students must be able to swim 50 metres confidently using correct technique of the stroke of choice (freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly). Generally, students should do swimming (squad training) as an outside of school activity or have competed at the Division level before (Year 5/6) to be competitive at the Division level.

The trials are at Waves Wodonga. Students are required to bring their swimwear to school with them and will be transported by bus both to and from the event.

There will be a small cost to attend the trials. If students have a season pass to Waves the entry fee will be deducted from their cost.

The Compass Event with all the specific event information will be available from Tuesday for student’s families to consent/pay and will remain open until Sunday 6th February.

Mr Maxworthy, Sport Coordinator

Blake.maxworthy@education.vic.gov.au

CANTEEN: New Menu

This year, we are offering a re-vamped Canteen Menu. Whilst the hard copy is not yet available (it will be sent out on Compass soon), you can see the new options when you use [eCanteen](#) to place your order.

You will note that some lunch items are only available on particular days this year as we aim to create more healthy options.

Remember to update your child’s classroom on eCanteen, otherwise their lunch could go roaming!

HELPERS: If you have a couple of hours to spare on a particular day, please think about volunteering to help in the Canteen. You will need to have a fully vaccination history prior to coming onsite. Please ring the school to let us know if you are able to assist – 6048 0300.

Sindy & April, Canteen Managers

EVENT NOTIFICATIONS

Stay in touch with Events / Activities – using Compass as your information base

Event / Activity	Event Date	Who	Information on Compass	Consent / Payment Due Date
Swim Trials	Feb 7	Selected students	Available on Compass soon	Feb 6
Last Day of Term 1	April 8	All students	Early finish, 2.30pm	N/A
Public Holiday	April 25	Whole School	Anzac Day	N/A
Pupil Free Day	April 26	Whole School	Staff Professional Development	N/A
First Day Term 2	April 27	Whole School	School starts at 9.00am	N/A



WODONGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

WODONGA 37 UU

TERM DATES 2022

TERM 1 January 31 - April 8
(all students start Jan 31)

TERM 2 April 26 - June 24

TERM 3 July 11 - September 16

TERM 4 October 3 - December 20

LAST DAY OF EVERY TERM IS AN EARLY DISMISSAL OF 2.30PM