



Ariel Announcements

No. 30 ~ October 25, 2021

Engage Learning * Expand Minds

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Well, it's not the start we wanted for Week 4, but it's a sign of the Covid times we now live in. We trust everyone is well and looking after one another at this time.

As you will have seen through our Compass messages, we have identified Covid positive persons within our school. As a consequence, the school has been closed today to facilitate Contact Tracing and cleaning. Please make sure you have read the information on Compass (see below) and sit tight for further school updates from us as the day/evening progresses.

Letter of Covid Advice – October 24 2021

Dear parents, carers and staff

Our school has been advised a confirmed COVID-19 case attended our school on Friday 22 October.

Our school will be closed on Monday 25 October as a precaution to identify students or staff who were on site between and inclusive of Wednesday 20 October to Friday 22 October and may have had close contact with the case.

Once that review is complete, we will let you know if you or your child has been identified as a primary close contact (PCC).

If we do not contact you by **Monday 25 October** to say that you or your child has been identified as a primary close contact, you or your child should return to school on **Tuesday 26 October** (pending).

Information for students and staff identified as Personal Close Contacts (PCC)

If you are contacted and advised that you or your child is a potential PCC, it is advised that you or your child get a COVID test and limit your/their movements outside of the home.

*This means that, until you hear further from me or the Department of Health or a Local Public Health Unit (DH/LPHU), you are advised to **only leave home for brief periods for necessary activities**, such as:*

- *exercise*
- *caregiving to family members when no alternative is available*
- *necessary medical appointments where no alternative is available (such as telehealth)*
- *shopping for necessary items, only where no one else in the household can perform this task and no alternative is available (such as delivery).*

DH/LPHU will then contact PCCs directly to interview them and advise if there are any changes to their PCC status. These calls or text messages can come from private or unknown numbers. Please answer these calls or follow text message advice if you receive a call or text message. If confirmed, DH/LPHU will send an SMS to the PCCs advising them of their quarantine, testing and release dates (this may take some days).

PCCs will no longer receive a clearance text message from DH to confirm their release from quarantine. For those who are undergoing 7 days of isolation, the return of a negative day 6 test is sufficient for release. For those who are undergoing 14 days of isolation, the return of a negative day 13 test is sufficient for release.

*Collaboration * Culture * Challenge * Community * Curiosity*

The rest of your family does not need to stay at home at this stage.

If you or anyone in your family develops even the mildest of symptoms, please get tested.

*If you have questions about what this means for our school, please call the Department of Education and Training COVID-19 hotline on **1800 338 663**, available 8:30am to 5pm Monday through Friday, and 10am to 3pm Saturday and Sunday.*

*If you are concerned you have COVID-19 you can call the DH COVID-19 hotline on **1800 675 398**, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.*

*For school information in languages other than English, call TIS National on **131 450**. Please ask them to call the DET COVID-19 hotline on **1800 338 663** and they will help interpret. For health advice in languages other than English, visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translated-information-about-coronavirus-covid-19.*

Kind regards

Damian Duncan, Principal

ONSITE ACCESS

Parents / Families / Contractors: On Thursday October 21st, we requested that parents/carers remain off-site in order to avoid unnecessary exposure to Covid-19 and to ensure our school can stay open. Unfortunately, Covid beat us!

When school resumes, we ask that all onsite access continues to be restricted to enable us to provide the safest environment for our staff and students as possible. This means we will not be allowing families entry into the school until further notice.

If you need to access the office for any reason, please ring from the Mitchell Street gate (02 6048 0300) and a staff member will liaise with you about your request. We are hopeful that this tougher approach will keep our community safe and ensure our school can stay open.

Secondary School Students from Huon Campus: Students from the WMYC are reminded that they are not permitted on site at Wodonga PS in line with our school's Covid-Safe practices as outlined above for parents and families. Any student needing to pick-up a younger sibling after school, should follow the practice of ringing the school's Admin team on 02 6048 0300 and await instructions. Thanks for your compliance.

Congregating Around School Perimeter: We understand it is difficult to find parking close to every school gate at drop-off and pick-up times, but can we please ask that parents/carers avoid congregating around the gates and fences at these times?

PARENT PAYMENTS 2022

Over the coming week, every child will bring home a Parent Payment letter, advising you of our parent payment arrangements for the 2022 school year. If your child is isolating due to Covid exposure, we will send this home when your child returns to onsite learning.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students. We want to thank you for all your support which makes a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Wodonga Primary School makes every effort to keep the cost of items and activities to a minimum and to be affordable for all parents.

Included with the letter, is a Parent Contribution Form which can be submitted to the school with payment via credit card or over the phone. The letter outlines the curriculum, other and voluntary items which will be utilised in 2022. We respectfully ask that families complete and return the Parent Payment section (pages 3 & 4) to school as soon as practical.

Financial Support for Families

Wodonga Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- Payment plans to ease the financial impact
- State Schools Relief (SSR) for uniform support
- Subsidies available at Business Manager/Principal discretion for camp support.

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact our Business Manager, Jamie Baude on 02 6048 0300 or by Email: Jamie.Baude@education.vic.gov.au

For further information on the [Department's Parent Payment Policy](#) please refer to our website.

STATIONERY PACK ORDERS 2022: Orders due December 15th

This year, parents are asked to submit their stationery pack orders to Wodonga PS before December 15th. The order form is attached to the Parent Payment letter and can be detached and sent back to school separately. The items listed are essential items as recommended by our staff at Wodonga PS to assist your child's learning. Please note, the stationery forms can be returned to Wodonga PS by December 15th, however the school is not accepting payments for stationery items, all transactions need to be made to Office Choice Wodonga when you collect your items.

LET'S CELEBRATE

This Friday October 29th across the World, we are celebrating World Teachers' Day – a day where we recognise and show our appreciations to our wonderfully adaptable and dedicated teachers.



Our teachers are being treated with a special morning on Friday. Be sure to tell your kids to say "Happy World Teachers Day" to their teacher!

VACCINATION PROOF

In preparation for when we can again have community members onsite to assist with our programs, please note that our school must collect, record, and hold vaccination information for all workers and volunteers on school sites who will or may be in close proximity to children, students or staff. This includes:

- casual relief teachers
- providers of incursions
- IT personnel (not engaged by school ICT and TSSP as they will be managed centrally as per above)
- students on placement
- services or works contractors not working within a designated construction site secured separately (for example, by fencing or hoarding) by a contractor from the rest of the school site (for example, for maintenance services or works)
- external therapists, NDIS providers or other allied health staff
- **volunteers performing volunteer work at the school (for example, parent helpers)**

Moving forward, as the need arises for families to be onsite, not only will you be asked to sign-in through PASSTAB at the office, you'll also be asked to provide your immunisation status. DET's policy clearly outlines that those individuals who are not vaccinated are not to be on the school grounds due to the risk of infection.

Non-compliant visitors or contractors will be asked to leave.

You can send a copy of your digital Covid certificate to the school's email address:

Wodonga.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Please do not send it to any individual staff member as we aim to support your privacy by having the information received and stored in the most highly confidential manner.

REMINDER: 2022 STUDENT PLACEMENT

In Newsletters #27 & #28, I outlined the process for making a personal request for student placement in 2022. Such requests need to be in writing and addressed to me as Principal for consideration. You can email these directly to me or through the school's email account: Wodonga.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Please note, this Friday October 29th is the final day for these requests.

MASK WEARING: Years 3 to 6

Last week we outlined the changes implemented to support the staged return of schools to onsite learning, and in particular mask-wearing by students. Thanks to our families for ensuring your child/ren have come well equipped to school.

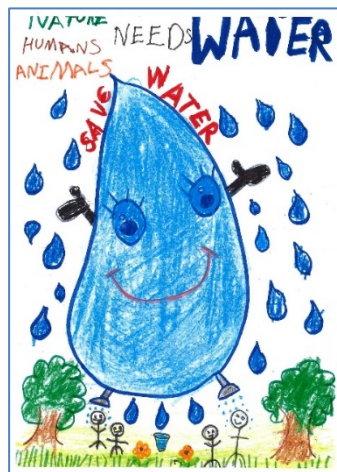
To review, these new changes came into effect from 18 October 2021 in regional and metropolitan primary schools:



- Face masks will now be mandatory for all school students in Grade 3 and above when indoors including at Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) programs unless a lawful exception applies. Face masks can be removed while outdoors at primary schools.
- Students in secondary school must continue to wear face masks from the first day they return to onsite learning.
- Face masks are strongly recommended for Foundation to Grade 2 students.
- For students with a disability, parents and carers should speak to the child's doctor or regular health professional and with their school about the best methods to encourage mask wearing. Students and parents can also contact the [Disability Liaison Officer program](#) for more information.
- Students with a medical condition that prevents mask use will not be required to wear a mask.
- Face masks are required for students in Grade 3 to Grade 6 unless an exception applies. Exceptions include students with a physical or mental disability where their disability means it would not be suitable. Parents/Carers of a student(s) who meet the criteria for an exception must provide their approval in writing for their child/ren to not wear a mask to the school.

Follow this link for Information on the [correct ways to wear a mask](#).

Thank you to families who have already sourced and sent your children to school with their own mask. The school does have some supplies for students who forget or lose theirs.



A LITTLE CELEBRATION

Congratulations to Yash Taimni from CH6 who received a second placing in the North East Water poster competition that was recently advertised through our newsletter.

Yash has provided some great examples of how to use water wisely – well done!

Have a great week and stay safe everyone,

Damian Duncan, Principal

DIVISION ATHLETICS AND SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA EVENTS UPDATE

Unfortunately, due to the current Covid climate in our Region and the potential risk this brings to any event, the Division Athletics Carnival and all other SSV events have been cancelled for the remainder of 2021.

SSV and school PE/Sport coordinators are optimistic of being able to offer many more opportunities to our students in 2022.

I'd like to thank our WPS community for your flexibility, understanding and support shown throughout this latest Covid impacted period.

Blake Maxworthy, PE and Sport Coordinator

END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES

Year 6 Graduation: The date of the Year 6 Graduation has been set for Friday December 3rd, 6pm. Your Year 6 staff will communicate the finer details to you via Compass Newsletter leading up to the event which will be live-streamed.

Whole School Awards: The date for our celebration of 2021 school awards will be Friday December 3rd, commencing 9.15am. At this stage, we envisage live-streaming this event. More details closer to the time.

SUNSHINE WALK - JOIN THE TEAM



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It's time to join the Wodonga Primary School team to participate in the Sunshine Walk for the Albury Wodonga Cancer Centre Trust.

The walk is on November 7th however it has now gone virtual. We will wait until we know what restrictions are in place to determine how we will support each other or walk together. We are asking families to register for the 10km walk and support our fundraising efforts.

You can use the link below to join our team and register to walk or to make a donation towards the team's fundraising goal. You can register as an individual or as a family. Individuals or families set their personal fundraising goal that adds to the team total. Go WPS!

<https://give.awcancertrust.org.au/fundraisers/WodongaPrimarySchool>

<https://give.awcancertrust.org.au/join/WodongaPrimarySchool>

SCHOOL PHOTOS: Postponed until November 9th & 10th

At this stage, school photos will proceed as planned on November 9th & 10th.

Please remember, you can order at any time online, just record your Reference Number on the **envelope you have and send that to school when it's actually Photo Day.**

All orders previously lodged online will be honoured, the photography company has a record of all orders so please don't be concerned.

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
District Aths	November 5	Selected students	Check Compass soon for cost/consent	TBA
School Photos	November 9 & 10	Whole School	Envelopes to be returned on the day	N/A
F-2 Tabloid Sports	November 11	Years F-2	No permissions / cost – school event	N/A
Book Fair	November 15-19	Whole School	From the library – more details soon	N/A
Wodonga Cup	November 26	Whole School	Public Holiday – No School	N/A
Awards Day	December 3	Whole School	Livestreamed event – TBA	N/A
Year 6 Graduation	December 3	Year 6	6pm: Livestreamed event – TBA	TBA
School Concert	December 13	Whole School	End of year celebration – more details to come	N/A
Stationery Pack orders	December 15	Whole School	Order forms due at school by....	Dec 15
Pupil Free Day	December 17	Whole School	Last day of Term 4 – no school	N/A