



COVID-19 Communication 14

18 May 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is going back to school on 26th May?

All Prep – Year Twos, VCE and VCAL students. For Year 10s doing a Unit 1 & 2 subject, they are encouraged to attend VCE classes where possible and can sign out straight after the class. Should they need to stay on at school, they will need to be booked into supervision the week prior to class commencement (please do this by emailing or phoning the office before Wednesday, 20th May)

Will PVCC buses be running from May 26th?

Yes. There may be some adjustments to bus routes, but if there are changes you will be notified by the Business Office.

Will the canteen be running?

Yes, the canteen and lunch orders will be back from May 26th but with a limited menu of pre-prepared food for safety. The Early Years canteen will also be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

It is essential that all students bring their **own drink bottle** to school as no drinking troughs will be available.

How will school pick up operate?

First and foremost, the government has made it clear that parents are not to be on site at schools unless absolutely necessary as the biggest danger of virus transfer is adult to adult. Kinder parents are the exception because they have very little people who must be signed in and out.

Where parents need to do school pick up, this will need to be done safely, which means adults should stay in their cars (except if your child needs help getting a school bag into the car). For Early Years, we are developing a special, supervised, safe drop off and pick up behind the EY building (more details to follow), and for everyone else, we are going to trial using the same pick up as normal, but with parents staying in cars.

However, if we find parents and students not doing safe pick up, we will need to move to Plan B to ensure we are adhering to government safety recommendations.

What are the new start and finish times?

The starting times remain the same.

Changes to finish times *for the time being*, to ensure parents can leave the property quickly where they can:

Plenty Kids sessions finish at 3:15 pm but children may be collected between 3:10 and 3:15 pm to aid social distancing

Early Years finish at 3:10pm

Junior Years – 3:10pm

Middle Years – 3:20pm



Senior Years – 3:20 (same as Term 1)

What if I have multiple children to collect?

If you have an older child who can collect someone from the Early Years, please make it clear to both the children that the meeting place is the assembly steps inside the Early Years Building (older children will wait outside and smaller children sent to their sibling).

What will my child need to wear to school and how will I buy uniforms?

As mentioned in previous correspondence, we are allowing extra grace in enforcement of uniform policy for the remainder of Term 2 only. This is to aid re-entry for students and assist families who haven't yet purchased all the winter uniform items.

If you do need to purchase items, you can do so through Bob Stewart, preferably through their online store (<http://www.bobstewart.com.au/>). The store at school will provide some limited hours in the next couple of weeks (note we are needing to choose times when students aren't on site). The shop will be open on: Friday, 26th May from 10am – 4pm. They will also be open the following day, Saturday 27th May from 9:00am – 12:30pm, or by appointment on Saturday afternoon (you will need to phone the shop the previous day to make an appointment – 90367354). Only a limited number of people can enter the shop at a time and those waiting will be outside, so please be prepared to wait and wear warm clothing.

Is the school a safe place for my child to be? What if I'm not ready for my children to return?

We recognise the anxiety that surrounds some families in the announcement of school returning to face to face. We have continued to follow the advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer who has been much more cautious than the Federal Chief Medical Officer. He has made the assessment that – with some extra precautions – school is a safe place to be. We are having ongoing, lengthy discussions about how to make PVCC the safest place possible.

The most important step that every student, teacher and staff member will need to take multiple times a day will be to thoroughly wash their hands. This will be reiterated verbally and through multiple posters around the school.

Along with this, and without going into all the details, please know that we have **extra deep cleaning** planned, we are **limiting the number of outside providers** on site, we will conduct **random temperature testing** (you are giving permission for this if you send your child to school), we are ensuring **social distancing** is occurring wherever possible (1.5 m distance is not required in each classroom - we are following government guidelines) and we will have our **nurse** on site assessing the health of students with any symptoms of the virus.

A reminder here that sick people should not enter the campus, whether it's a cold or any other mild virus. Please do not send symptomatic children to school. Students who develop symptoms during the day will be quarantined and parents will need to collect them immediately.

Shared equipment in labs and classrooms will be regularly cleaned throughout the day. We are discouraging the use of mobile phones even during break times due to the tendency of students to pass around such devices. Teachers will have more to say about this upon students' return.



If your family have special circumstances that preclude your child returning to school, please contact the appropriate Head of Sub-school (Plenty Kids – Sam Greenwood, Early Years and Junior Years – Rebecca Matthews, Middle Years – Paul Oldman, Senior Years – Lily McDonald) and we will discuss with you how we might best support your child at home. Please be aware that it is simply impossible for teaching staff to concurrently run face to face teaching and remote teaching. We will do our best, but we cannot do everything, so where children can return to school, this is the best scenario.

How will I contact teachers on ‘take a breath’ day?

You won't. The only people on site on Friday, 22nd May will be our Kinder teachers and the uniform shop. No IT staff, teaching staff or administration staff will be on site. Given the huge effort on everyone's behalf to make the last few weeks work, we will be allowing all staff to have a day's recovery before beginning the transition back to face to face teaching.

I'd like to take the time here to thank all of our staff, teachers and general staff for the monumental efforts they put into making Remote Learning work. Please pray for them as we confront the next big effort to transition everyone back on site.

Are there going to be changes to the published holiday dates?

Yes. With the disruption to student learning this term the College has decided not to have the teachers Professional Development Week which was to be in the first week of Term 3. All students will return to school on Wednesday 15 July 2020. We are hoping Term 3 will be a settled term where we can catch up on the things we have not been able to achieve in remote mode.

If you have further questions please contact your relevant teacher, head of sub school, or community relations staff.

John Metcalfe

Principal