



COVID-19 UPDATE 26

Dear Parents,

The Premier allowed greater movement for Victorians on the weekend and dangled the promise of more if we see low numbers this week. None of his announcements impacted greatly on education.

Years 8 to 10 return on Monday

We are pleased that all students will be back at school on Monday. The long remote learning journey for these students and their parents is nearly at the end.

Anything we should know about: If there is anything that we need to be aware of with your child's return please email their Homeroom teacher in the first instance.

Uniform: All students should be wearing Plenty Valley uniform. Sports uniform is only acceptable on sport or PE days. If this is not possible because you have not been able to buy shoes or are waiting on a uniform item to be available from the uniform shop, your child should carry a note from you explaining the circumstances and when we can expect it to be corrected. The note should be counter signed by their homeroom teacher.

COVID safe plan

Like all businesses Plenty Valley Christian College has a COVID Safe Plan that, under law, we are required to adhere to. There are officers appointed to check on schools and their COVID Safe Plan. Failure to comply would result in the school being fined. Several schools, that I am aware of, have already been visited and I am pleased to report that all were deemed compliant.

I think we are all "over" the lockdown restrictions and we are seeing people "letting down their guard". This is what the premier fears will happen across the state. Then the virus, which we know is undetected in our community, will take off again. Please, for the sake of our community and our college, stick to our plan.

Last week was *grace* week as we got used to school again but now, we really need to get it right.

Some reminders and clarifications:

Symptoms: If your child shows any symptoms, they should not attend school. Have them COVID tested and keep them at home until you receive a clear result. If you think it is hay fever, give them medication and see if symptoms stop before sending them to school. If any member of the family has been instructed to self-isolate no member of that family may attend school until the all-clear is received.

Water Bottles: all students should carry a water bottle as the bubblers are no longer available. This will be important as the weather heats up. Please put names on them.

No sharing: students should not share anything as that is a high transmission risk.

No phones: phones should not be seen at all during school hours. They are so much part of social interaction students (and adults) can not help passing them around and they are very high transmission risks. They should be disinfected regularly.

Parents should not leave their cars: We have had enough practice for pickup now and there should be no need for parents to stand by their car or walk toward the crossing. Please prearrange collection places with your child. They will find you. If you think your child is unable to find you or navigate the Early Years crossing alone then you should collect them from the EY Kiss and Drop area behind the EY building.



Kinder Parents: should walk their child to Kinder and collect them afterwards because they are required to sign their child in and out. If you arrive early, because no one can predict the traffic at the moment, please remain in your car until just before it is time to hand them over or collect them. Please do not congregate outside the ELC door. Remember masks and physical distancing even when walking back to your car.

No conversations in the carpark: please do not chat in the carpark. You are allowed to stop in a park on the way home, but you may not gather, even for a couple of minutes, at school.

Restricting adults entering the college: adults should only enter the college if it is essential and should be confined to a preapproved area. Please ring the college if you need to come in.

If you are running late: there is no need for you to accompany students into the EY reception area or the general office, however we would always encourage parents/caregivers to make sure Prep students are walked safely across the pedestrian crossing before entering reception.

Picking up students early: if you need to collect your child early from school for an appointment please prearrange the time. You can ring the college reception to confirm that you are in the carpark and your child can then sign themselves out or other arrangements can be made. Parents are welcome to stand just outside the building so staff can sight you before your child leaves reception.

Secondary students must wear masks properly and all day: it is a requirement of the Victorian Chief Health Officer that all Victorians over 12 years of age must wear masks when they leave home. At school, all secondary students must wear approved masks correctly except for while eating and drinking and participating in sport. Medical exemptions may apply. Students who are not able to comply with this requirement will, regrettably, not be able to attend the college on health safety grounds.

Footy Day

Thursday 22 October is Footy Colours Day, and all students may come to school in any AFL team colours, just for fun. Other sporting code teams' colours are also acceptable.

Assistance needed?

Financial - If the restrictions have significantly affected your family financially, please get in touch with Peter Bain, our Business Manager. We recognise that these are unusual times, and we might need to make some special arrangements.

Other – please let us know if there are circumstances that may affect your child at school. We have welfare strategies in place for students and families. You can either contact your child's homeroom teacher or Head of Sub-School.

Finally, *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.* Hebrews 10:24.

Yours faithfully

John Metcalfe

Principal