



Wednesday 28th July 2021

Dear families,

Welcome back everyone! It is great to be back. I would like to commend all of our students and staff for their resilience, enthusiasm and 'take everything in their stride' attitudes. Today everyone has recommenced school as per normal, slipping back into routines seamlessly. It is very admirable.

As you are aware, our school photos and whole school swimming program were impacted by our most recent lockdown. We are currently liaising with our photography company to get the school photos booked in for another date. Mr Brown has busily been working with Bellarine Aquatic Centre to recommence our swimming program with minimal disruption and without the need to cancel the program. The school swimming program will begin **TOMORROW** and conclude on Friday August 6th. This will be a 7 day program rather than 8 days with any refund from the aquatic centre credited to families accounts. Unfortunately, due to current COVID density restrictions and DET Operational Guidelines, parents and parent helpers are unable to attend the swimming sessions or swimming pool. The school have adjusted our staffing ratios to cater for change room duties, bus travel and supervision. A letter will be distributed alongside this newsletter for more swimming details.

Whilst it is so great to be back at school onsite, we are unfortunately bound by the DET Operational Guidelines which must be adhered to by all students, staff, parents and visitors/contractors. These guidelines change in accordance with the changing landscape of COVID-19 across the state and are in place to keep our schools safe and reduce the impact of any future outbreaks. At times these changes can be confusing, frustrating and arduous. We ask all of families and employees to please remain flexible, patient and understanding as these guidelines are implemented, monitored and changed over time. The below strategies are the most up to date guidelines which are in place at all DET schools, including Queenscliff Primary School and we politely request all students, staff and families to adhere. They are designed to promote physical distancing, minimise mixing between groups and limit access to school grounds to only those providing essential services:

- All staff must wear a face mask at all times indoors and outdoors when at school (except when engaged in teaching), including in staff rooms
- Staff should observe physical distancing, limit mixing in staff rooms and offices, and conduct all-staff meetings and professional development online
- Density limits of 1 person per 4 square metres apply to staff areas such as staff lunchrooms and areas accessed by the public, such as reception areas.
- Non-essential visitors should not be allowed into school grounds. At Queenscliff Primary School, we ask parents to please call us on 52581696 for all enquiries or to email your child's teacher for a telephone or online meeting. Unfortunately, parents are unable to attend Queenscliff Primary School onsite at the moment
- All school gatherings such as assemblies and school events should be deferred or held remotely
- Interschool activities are not permitted at this time.
- School camps, outdoor education programs and overnight stays can take place across Victoria with no travel restrictions. Bookings must be limited to single schools. Multiple schools can attend camps providing school groups remain separated and do not share common facilities at the same time. Mixing of staff and students between different schools is not permitted.

Incursions are not permitted, but excursions can take place with students from single schools only.

We have been contacted by Point Lonsdale Surf Lifesaving club who are working to run a Nippers in Schools program toward the end of the year. We are seeking expressions of interest from parents to undertake some training with the Surf Lifesaving Club to assist in implementing this program. If you are interested in this, please contact Mrs. Fitzgerald for further details.

Finally, I would like to thank all families who attended our online parent teacher interviews and especially staff for organising these to be online at late notice. By all accounts the format worked well. Unfortunately, our mid term and end of term assemblies will be held online this term. Links will be sent out closer to the dates.

Have a great week

Richard Buckingham
Principal



OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

- Queenscliff Primary School is committed to child safety.
- We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers.
- We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.
- We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.
- We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.
- Queenscliff Primary School is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.
- Our school has robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers.
- Our school is committed to regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child abuse risks.
- We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the cultural safety of children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.
- We have specific policies, procedures and training in place that support our leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments.