

Dear BSPS families,

Welcome back.... and a **special** welcome to our new families and staff members.

It is wonderful to have our kids back and settling in to their new learning areas and learning groups – it's even better that we have our parents, carers and families back on site for those crucial opportunities to connect before and after school!

We have again launched our '**Learning to Learn**' program, which runs for the first seven days of this term. This program sets clear and consistent expectations for the year and assists the students to transition into the new year comfortably and confidently.

New faces:

In addition to our new families we also welcome some new staff to our school:

Jack Bunting – Years 1/2

Iman Taulla-Samra – Years 3/4

Professional Learning:

Our staff started back last week and, with only one day before the kids came back, we crammed in some meetings, planning and Professional Learning on Mathematics.

Welcome to Country Smoking Ceremony:

This coming Monday (8 February) we will be having a Smoking Ceremony to welcome us to a new school year on Wurundjeri land. **Aunty Di Kerr** will conduct the ceremony at 3.10pm in the courtyard in front of the hall. If you can make it, we'd love to see you there. Please make sure you sign in at the gate via one of our QR Codes.

Please **do not** take any photographs unless Aunty Di says otherwise.

Coffee Van

We will have our Coffee Van back on site on **Friday 12 February** so you can enjoy a coffee at drop off time. They will be set up from about 8am onwards for those dropping off students at before care. Any students wanting to order a hot chocolate will need to do so before 8.50am so they can be in class by 9.00am.

Updated Mask and COVID Restrictions

People aged 12 and over must wear a fitted face mask when in public indoor spaces unless there is a lawful reason not to.

Children under 12 years of age and students at primary school or attending an OHSC program are not required to wear face masks.

School staff are not required to wear face masks while teaching or caring, but those who wish to do so, can. Staff must wear face masks in indoor areas of the school when not teaching or caring. All visitors to school sites must also wear masks **when indoors**.

All visitors on site for longer than 15 minutes also must be signed in. This includes all staff, parents and external visitors to the school. To make this process easy for parents and carers there are QR code sign in posters on each gate for those who are on the school yard. Parents entering the learning areas or offices for longer than 15 minutes should use the QR codes on the entry doors to each building.

We are unable to individually monitor how long every person is on site, so we are relying on your support and cooperation in signing in when you are required to.

Instrumental Music Program

Our fantastic Instrumental Music Program is back face-to-face in 2021 and we have a new teacher joining our team; Esther Henderson will now be teaching Violin for our kids at BSPS. For those families wishing to enrol in music lessons please contact Maria Fitzgerald on 0404 969 386 or mariafitz@westnet.com.au

Student/Family Psychologist Support

Our school currently uses the psychologist service 'onPsych' to provide quality mental health support to children and their families who may require it. They work in individual and small group sessions with students, parents and staff and the service is provided on site at school for easy access. onPsych psychologists and mental health social workers work primarily from an early intervention model, with the students and families. They aim to work with children displaying difficulties such as anxiety, social skill needs, Autism, attention deficit, emotional de-regulation, behavioural issues and more.

The onPsych service is bulk billed and accessed through obtaining a mental health plan from your GP. Contact Marg for more information about accessing this service.

Sun Protective Clothing:

This term is a Sun Smart term at BSPS and in line with the school's Sun Smart Policy we recommended that from September to April, students wear sun-protective clothing such as:

- loose, cool, closely-woven fabric
- shirts with a collar and/or high necklines
- tops with elbow length or long sleeves
- longer style shorts and skirts

At recess and lunch times, all students **must** wear a hat when playing outside. Students are required to wear a school hat or another hat style that protects the face, neck and ears when outdoors, for example broad-brimmed, legionnaire or bucket. Students who are not wearing appropriate protective clothing or a hat will be asked to play in the shade or in a suitable area protected from the sun. Please ensure your child brings their hat to school each day. New ones can be purchased from the office for \$20.

School/Home Communication:

To help you get to know your child's new teachers and learning areas we have organised the following:

1. **Learning Area Information Video:** Usually we'd do this face to face, but with density limits in the learning areas we are unable to accommodate all families in each area. We have, however, become pretty tech savvy in 2020 and this year our teams are going to record their sessions and distribute links to videos online. You'll still have the opportunity to clarify any questions or wonderings with teams either in person at pick up and drop off, or via email or phone.
2. **Student Led Conferences:** These have been **tentatively** booked to occur on **Tuesday 23 March** from 1.00-7.00pm. Students will attend school in the morning and the afternoon times will be scheduled in for these meetings. The date will be confirmed with families once it has been approved at our next School Council meeting as a modified school day. The purpose of these sessions is for our students themselves to share with you their Learning Goals, which have been developed in conjunction with their teachers.

In addition, as always, we encourage any families to come and see the teachers with any pressing concerns about your child as soon as possible.

With the current restrictions around density limits we are unable to set a date for our usual 'Welcome Picnic'. We will confirm a date for this event as soon as we can.

Finally, for the beginning of the year, a couple of quick, general safety reminders that we ask be adhered to. These requests are important for the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

- Before entering the school grounds all students and parents should dismount from their bikes or scooters.
- Please observe all speed and parking restrictions around the school. The area can become very congested at pick up and drop off times and the safety of everyone is our priority.
- The staff car park is not to be used as a thoroughfare for students and families. The designated entry and exit gates are Brunswick Road, Rathdowne Street and Park Street.
- Students are supervised by staff from 8:45am until 3:45pm each day. To safeguard and maintain an appropriate Duty of Care for your children and to assist the TeamKids OSHC program, students and families are asked to follow our 'Access to School Grounds' Policy'
- Dogs in the yard must be on a short leash (not extendable) and controlled by an adult at all times. In accordance with our 'Dogs in School Policy' dogs must remain only on the asphalted areas. The policy can be found here: <http://brunwicksouthps.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Dogs-in-School-Policy-2020.pdf>

Thanks again for a smooth start to 2021 – looking forward to another year of working together to support all our kids to flourish!

Trevor Strolla

Principal

Important Dates:**FEBRUARY**

Mon 15 Feb – Whole School Assembly – Foundation hosting 9am (Special guests in attendance...)

Tue 23 Feb – School Council Meeting

MARCH

Mon 1 March – Junior School Assembly (1/2 hosting – 9am)

Mon 1 March – Foundation students at school full time

Mon 8 March – Labour Day Public Holiday – No School

Mon 15 March – Wed 17 March – Years 5/6 Camp (Campaspe Downs)

Mon 15 March – Fri 19 March & Mon 22 March - Wed 24 March – Years 3/4 Swimming

Mon 22 March – Senior School Assembly (3/4 hosting – 9am)

Tue 23 March – Tentative Student Led Conferences (1-7pm)

Tue 23 March – School Council Meeting

APRIL

Thu 1 April – Whole School Assembly – Foundation hosting (9am)

Thu 1 April – End of Term 1: 2.30pm finish