

Dear BSPS families,

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

It has been wonderful to have our kids back and settling in to their new learning areas and learning groups – it's even better that we have parents, carers and families back on site for those crucial opportunities to connect before and after school! We've really enjoyed the opportunity to chat to many of you face to face for the first time in a long, long time.

Our new Foundation students have settled in exceptionally and have already ticked off three school days this week! They have taken this milestone in their stride and we are looking forward to seeing them grow as we progress through the term.

We have again launched our '**Learning to Learn**' program, which runs for the first ten 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. The program also centres around a whole school mentor text and this year's text is **Say Yes** - a story about how the events surrounding the historic 1967 Referendum played out in the everyday lives of two young children.

Staff update:

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

Michelle Kumar – Years 1/2

Giada Ottina – Years 3/4

Last week we received notification that Des has resigned from her position at BSPS. Des has been the face (and voice) of our school for almost six years and we are very sad to say goodbye to her. We wish her all the very best for the future and she'll be missed in our school community. Vicky has been in Des' role since last year and is already very familiar with many of our students and their families.

Updated COVID guidelines:

Our run of over two years with no positive cases at school has come to an expected end this week. Today some families have received notification on Compass of positive COVID cases in their child's learning areas. We expect these to continue as we proceed through the term and will communicate these to only the relevant learning groups as they occur.

Please refer to Compass posts for the most recent COVID information and guidelines from Department of Education.

Our next batch of RA tests are due to arrive very soon and will be distributed to families by the end of next week.

Instrumental music program:

Our fantastic Instrumental Music Program is back face-to-face in 2022. For those families wishing to enrol in music lessons please visit the [school website](#) for more information. Please contact the individual teachers directly or Francesca Di Muccio for Keyboard Program inquiries.

Safety around our school:

The landscape of our area is constantly evolving and we know this will continue over the coming years. We are located in a very busy spot, with main roads, trams, cars, bikes and laneways – not to mention to endless construction around us. We ask that you begin conversations at home about how your child travels to and from school and can do this safely being aware of danger spots on their journey.

With a return to school, congestion has also increased. Please be mindful of school speed limits, parking restrictions and modelling safe traffic habits for your children. The time it takes to find a car park a block away far outweighs creating a possible risk for you or your child.

Please remember our Park Street gate is open before and after school and during these times provides a quieter entry and exit point.

Student learning groups:

Remember, at BSPS we don't have 'homegroups' and work on the philosophy that learning groups should be fluid and evolve, meeting the diverse needs of the learners within them. Exposure to multiple teachers helps to reduce variability in teacher instruction, build a team of teachers who know your child and also supports our kids to develop positive relationships with a variety of adults and peers. Our teaching teams know all the students and make decisions to ensure learning groups are balanced, have a range of abilities and personalities and that specific social needs can be adequately met. We ask for you to trust us and our knowledge of all cohorts in the formation of these groups with the knowledge that they can *and will* change throughout 2022.

Sun protective clothing:

Term 1 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 COVID restrictions we are unable to accommodate all families in each area. We have, however, become pretty tech savvy over the last two years and our teams are going to record their sessions and distribute links to videos on Compass. 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 booked to occur on **Tuesday 22 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 purpose of these sessions is for our students themselves to share their learning with you and to allow you time to talk with their teachers about their achievements and future goals.

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.

Finally, for the beginning of the year, a few 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.
- The new playground (near the bike shed) is a senior playground and is only suitable for children in Year 3 and above. It shouldn't be used by younger children even before or after school.
- 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 only 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' and vacate the playgrounds in the afternoon by 3.45pm.
- 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 2022 – looking forward to another year of working together to support all our kids to flourish!

Trevor & Marg

Term 1 Calendar

FEBRUARY

Tue 22 Feb – School Council Meeting

Every Monday for 8 weeks from 14th Feb – Years 1/2 Swimming Program

Mon 28 Feb – Foundation students at school full time

MARCH

Mon 14 March – Labour Day Public Holiday – No School

Tue 22 March – Student Led Conferences (1-7pm)

Mon 28th – Wed 30th March – Years 5/6 Camp (Portsea)

Tue 22 March – School Council Meeting

APRIL

Fri 8 April – End of Term 1: 2.30pm finish

Term 1 Assembly Schedule			
Week	Date	Time	Year Levels Hosting
3	14 th February	9.00-9.30am	Year 5 & 6
6	7 th March	9.00-9.30am	Years 3 & 4
9	28 th March	9.00-9.30am	Years 1 & 2
10	8 th April (End of Term 1)	2.00-2.30pm	Foundation
2022 Term Dates & Curriculum Days			
Term 1: Friday 28 January (State-wide Curriculum Day) No school Monday 31 January – Years 1-6 commence Tuesday 1 February – Foundation commences Friday 8 April – End of Term 1 (2.30pm dismissal)		Term 2: Tuesday 26 April (Curriculum Day) No school Wednesday 27 April – First day of Term 2 Friday 24 June – End of Term 2 (2.30pm dismissal)	
Term 3: Monday 11 July (Curriculum Day) No school Tuesday 12 July – First day of Term 3 Friday 16 September – End of Term 3 (2.30pm dismissal)		Term 4: Monday 3 October – First day of Term 4 Monday 31 October (Curriculum Day) No school Tuesday 20 December – End of Term 4 (1.30pm dismissal)	