

Dear BSPS families,

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

It has been wonderful to have our kids back and settling in to their new learning areas and learning groups – it's even more exciting to welcome our new Foundation students and their families to our school. The youngest members of our BSPS family have settled in exceptionally well and have made it through their very first day of school. We are looking forward to seeing them grow as we progress through the term.

#### **Staff update:**

In addition to our new families we also welcome **Faith Kelly** to our school. Faith has worked at Brunswick North-West Primary School and joins BSPS in the 1/2 Learning Area.

We will also welcome back **Simonetta Baio** and **Sarah Burdak** in 2023. Simonetta and Sarah will commence in Term 2, but will be around throughout Term 1.

#### **Learning to Learn**

We have again launched our '**Learning to Learn**' program, which runs for the first few weeks of term. In addition to setting clear and consistent expectations and supporting our students to transition into the new year, the '**Learning to Learn**' program also helps to build to the disposition of our learners for Literacy and Mathematics.

Our whole school mentor text for this unit is **From Little Things Big Things Grow** (*Da piccole cose nascono grandi cose*) – a story and song of hope about a strike on Wave Hill Cattle Station in the Northern Territory in 1966. Gurindji stockmen, who were working for little more than rations, sat down for better pay and conditions from their employer, Vestey's. The message from this text teaches us that however bleak a situation may be, we should always plant a seed of hope!

#### **Maintenance works:**

A few jobs around the school were undertaken over the school holiday break. The most significant being the repair of the uneven surface on parts of the senior turf area. We've had some repainting along the Rathdowne Street doors and upstairs in the main building to freshen things up for 2023.

Our grounds keeping contractors were unable to come in just before school started and we've got a backlog of rubbish from over the break and last year. This will all sort itself out in the coming days when the bin collections resume and we find homes for all the things we no longer need. If you are after any chairs, we have about 70 to give away from our 1/2 Learning Area. Please let us know if you would like some.

#### **Instrumental music program:**

Our fantastic Instrumental Music Program is back for 2023. For those families wishing to enrol in music lessons please visit the [school website](#) for more information and 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.

#### **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 2023.

## Updated COVID guidelines:

The requirements and recommendations for managing COVID-19 at school have not changed since the end of last year.

The Department of Health **strongly recommends** that **students** and **school staff**:

- who test positive to COVID-19 stay home and isolate for 5 days and do not attend school after 5 days if they are still symptomatic
- who are symptomatic but have not tested positive not attend school. This does not include students with pre-existing conditions such as hay fever.

Parents and carers are recommended to continue to report their child having COVID-19 to both the school and the Department of Health. We no longer report individual occurrences of positive cases to the school community.

We ask parents and carers to continue to remain vigilant in preventing COVID-19 transmission. Any student who is unwell should continue to remain at home. This is about keeping students healthy and well in our school and reducing the spread of both COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases. Parents and carers will be contacted if their child shows symptoms while at school and free rapid antigen tests are available from the school office to enable continued testing.

We will also continue to use air purifiers and other COVID-19 prevention measures.

Students, staff and families who wish to wear a mask should continue to do so.

## 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:** 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 28 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 staff, 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 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 Premises Policy](#)' and allow TeamKids to access the playground and yard area from 3.45pm onwards.
- 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 should remain only on the asphalted areas. The policy can be found here:

The start to the school year has been seamless. Thank you for supporting your child with their start to school and we look forward to another year working together to support our kids to flourish!

Term 1 Calendar					
Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Week 1</b> WC: 30 Jan					
<b>Week 2</b> WC: 6 Feb	Welcome to Country – Smoking Ceremony 9.00am				
<b>Week 3</b> WC: 13 Feb	Assembly (5/6 hosting) 9.00am		5/6 Camp – Campaspe Downs School Photos	5/6 Camp – Campaspe Downs School Photos	5/6 Camp – Campaspe Downs School Photos
<b>Week 4</b> WC: 20 Feb					
<b>Week 5</b> WC: 27 Feb	Foundation students at school full time	School Council Meeting			
<b>Week 6</b> WC: 6 Mar	Assembly (3/4 hosting) 9.00am				
<b>Week 7</b> WC: 13 Mar	Public Holiday (Labour Day)				
<b>Week 8</b> WC: 20 Mar					
<b>Week 9</b> WC: 27 Mar	Assembly (1/2 hosting) 9.00am	Student Led Conferences 1-7pm Students dismissed at 12pm School Council Meeting			
<b>Week 10</b> WC: 3 Apr				Assembly (Foundation hosting) 2.00pm End of Term 2.30pm finish	

2023 Term Dates & Curriculum Days	
<b>Term 1:</b> <b>Friday 27 January</b> (State-wide Curriculum Day) No school <b>Monday 30 January</b> – Years 1-6 commence <b>Tuesday 31 January</b> – Foundation commences  <b>Thursday 6 April</b> – End of Term 1 (2.30pm dismissal)	<b>Term 2:</b> <b>Monday 24 April</b> Curriculum Day (No school) <b>Tuesday 25 April</b> ANZAC Day (No school) <b>Wednesday 26 April</b> – First day of Term 2  <b>Friday 23 June</b> – End of Term 2 (2.30pm dismissal)
<b>Term 3:</b> <b>Monday 10 July</b> (Curriculum Day) No school <b>Tuesday 11 July</b> – First day of Term 3  <b>Friday 15 September</b> – End of Term 3 (2.30pm dismissal)	<b>Term 4:</b> <b>Monday 2 October</b> – First day of Term 4  <b>Monday 6 November</b> (Curriculum Day) No school  <b>Wednesday 20 December</b> – End of Term 4 (1.30pm dismissal)

The Department of Education & Training is yet to confirm whether schools are able to schedule staff Professional Practice Days on a common day for all staff again in 2023. If this is the case we will advise these dates when they are scheduled.