

Thursday 8th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of our school, I want to say a big thank you to all our students, parents and carers for your continued resilience and support throughout this year. I know remote and flexible learning has not always been easy, but through our collective efforts, our students have continued to make valuable progress in their learning. You can be confident that our school will support any student who has fallen behind to catch up.

Term 4 is important for every Victorian student, and our teachers will strive to deliver high-quality learning for everyone. Whether we're teaching remotely or face-to-face, our focus for Term 4 is on making sure that every student is supported in their wellbeing, learning and transition needs.

The Victorian Government has outlined the staged return to on-site schooling for all students as part of its gradual roadmap towards reopening.

Term 4 on-site schooling arrangements for students

Following advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government has released a staged approach for students to return to on-site schooling.

The purpose of the plan is to get students back in the classroom as soon and as safely as possible without putting at risk all that has been achieved through the period of restrictions to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). For our school, the following arrangements apply:

From 12 October (second week of Term 4)

- students in Prep to Grade 6 will return to on-site schooling. The existing remote learning program will not continue for these year levels

Outside school hours care

- During the staged return, outside school hours care will be available to students attending for on-site supervision and progressively for the relevant year levels returning to on-site schooling.
- Our Out of School Hours Care provider TheirCare will be operating and providing a before and after school service. We encourage all families to register with TheirCare in case the need for the service arises. Registrations can be completed online at www.theircare.com.au

Health and safety measures

- The Term 3 remote and flexible learning arrangements were put in place to significantly reduce the movement of more than one million students and their families across Victoria, to help slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Thanks to you and your family for contributing to this on behalf of our school community.
- As on-site schooling resumes, we will continue to have in place strong measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff, families and the community. This includes staggering start and finish times, restricting parent

access to school grounds and continued emphasis on hand hygiene and physical distancing where possible.

- Drink taps cannot be used
- Restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students. This means that no parents or carers will be allowed onsite, only staff and students
- Adjusted arrangements for drop off and pick up, including the allocations of gates for different year levels, please see below. This is to assist in easing congestion and maintaining social distancing. **Please ensure you use the gates allocated to your child's classroom to lessen adult contact.** Staff will be available to offer assistance.

School hours will be as follows:

Group 1

Drop Off 8:45-8:55

Pick Up 2:45-2:55

Prep A-E, 1A-E, 2 A-E, 3A-D, 4A & B, 5/6A-C

Group 2

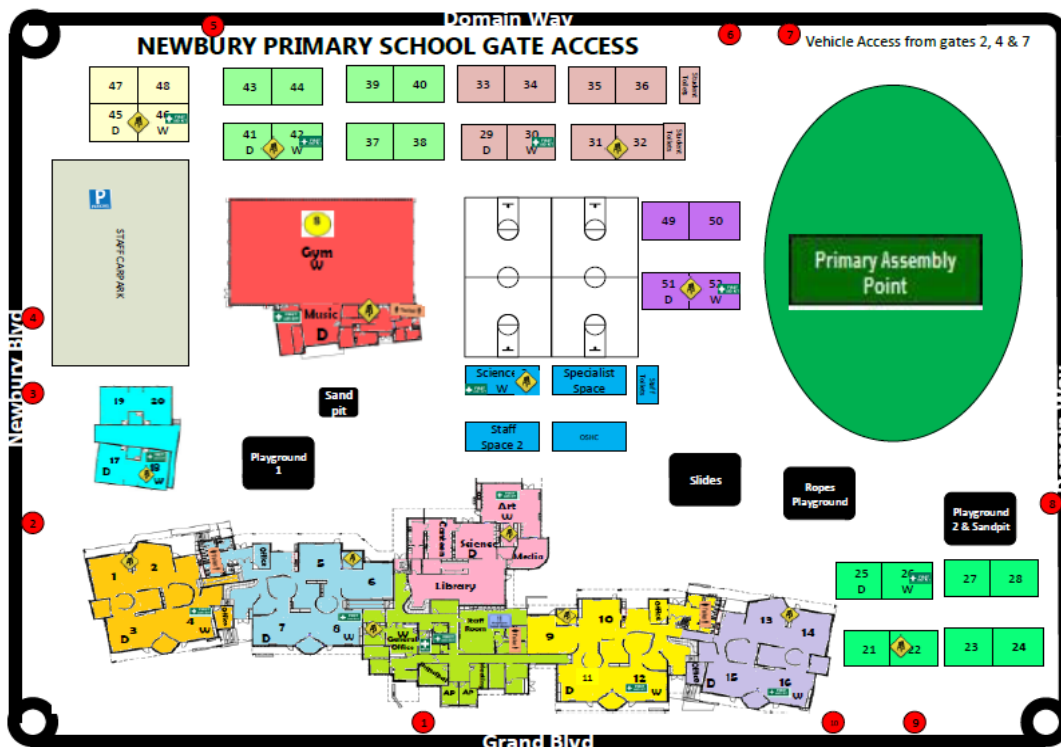
Drop Off 9:00-9:10

Pick Up 3:00-3:10

Prep F-J, 1F-J, 2F-J, 3E-H, 4C&D, 5/6D-F

- Prep Grand Blvd Gate 10 (near bike compound)
- Year 1 Main Newbury Blvd entrance Gate 2
- Year 2 Domain Way Gate 6 (North – near relocatable toilet block)
- Year 3 Domain Way Gate 8 (East – near new adventure playground)
- Year 4 to 6 Domain Way Gate 5 (North – near double storey relocatables)

GATES:



- Please be assured we will be focused on three key priorities in Term 4:

Mental health and wellbeing

- Our highest priority will be the wellbeing, particularly the mental health, of every student and member of staff. This means effectively mobilising all available resources to support our most vulnerable students and enabling staff to access the relevant support services.

Learning and excellence

- Some of our students have thrived in the remote and flexible learning environment, others have maintained their learning progress, and some have fallen behind, despite their best efforts and those of their families and teachers. Our priority will be supporting both those who need it to catch up and those who have progressed to continue to extend their learning.

Transitions

- We will make every effort to ensure successful transitions for children moving from kindergarten into Prep and the Year 6s moving into Year 7.
- We know some families are worried that their child may have to repeat a year due to the disruptions of coronavirus (COVID-19). There is little evidence to support the benefits of repeating a year to catch up. Instead, schools will use teaching strategies that draw on the best evidence available to help students meet their learning needs.
- Parents, families and carers can be confident that the best option for almost every child is to stay with their peer group, whether that is moving from kindergarten into Prep, moving from Grade 6 into Year 7 at secondary school, or students moving up any year level in between.

Additional information

The office will not be open to parents and carers. For any enquiries please call or email the office on newbury.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au as we will be unable to assist you face to face. No parents or carers will be allowed into the office area.

We also ask that parents and carers do not provide lolly bags, cakes or any type of birthday celebration as we will not be able to accommodate this until further notice. Students are also asked not to bring any toys or equipment to school. Parents will also be unable to drop anything off at the office so please ensure your child has enough food for the day as well as a water bottle as students will not be permitted to use the drinking taps.

If you are running late in the morning you will need to ring the office when you get to the office gate and a staff member will open the door for your child to enter.

We strongly encourage that students are not picked up early. If on the odd occasion you may need to pick them up for a specialist appointment we ask that you email the school by 10am on the day so this can be arranged with the teacher. This will assist in organising your child to be ready for collection when you arrive. If it is an extreme emergency please call the office.

Parents and carers will not be able to enter the office so you will need to call the school when you get to the office gate so we can let your child out of the school.

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the Department's website, which will continue to be updated:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/department/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Our school, working with you, has shown it can be flexible and adaptable in responding to the challenges of coronavirus (COVID-19) and will continue to meet student needs as we look towards the end of the 2020 school year and ahead to 2021.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We have missed everyone and look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom.

Yours sincerely,



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