



WILLIAM CAREY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

21st January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would firstly like to wish you a happy New Year. It is my prayer that all members of our school community enjoy God's blessings, good health and safety, and the opportunities that this year offers. I also hope that the summer break has provided you time together with friends and families despite the ongoing impacts of COVID and changes in the safety measures to minimise transmission.

There has understandably been a great deal of interest in what the return to school will involve. While the school has received initial information, we are still waiting on some aspects of the government's plans to support schools to remain operational.

Last year we saw the value for our students in attending school in person. Every day matters when it comes to student learning, and high levels of attendance are needed for ongoing success at school. It also emphasised the importance of the partnership between school and home. I would like to recognise the great load carried by parents who worked alongside their children while also working from home.

Last year also showed us how important it is for teachers to be working directly with their students to provide for their learning and wellbeing.

Thus, the current plans for schools are designed to ensure students have the opportunity to attend school with their teachers in a way that will optimise the essential aspects of school activity while planning for the health and safety of school community members.

We are currently very busy planning for 'business as usual' in a COVID-safe way by implementing school-based risk assessments to minimise risk and enable continuity of learning and student wellbeing. This afternoon, I received notification the Premier is intending to provide details regarding school settings this Sunday. Therefore, the details contained in this letter may be adjusted in the light of new information. Please ensure you refer to the most recent school communication.

More information about the first half of Term 1 will be provided in the coming week, however the following points are important for you know:

General health:

- If a member of the school community is unwell, remain at home until free of symptoms
- If a student displays symptoms of ill health during the day, Parent/Carers will be contacted to promptly pick them up (as per 2021).
- Do not attend the school site if you are required to isolated due to receiving a positive COVID-19 result, or you are a household contact. Follow NSW Health advice in this matter.

Positive COVID-19 cases and isolation:

- If a student receives a positive COVID test result, **the school is to be notified immediately** via covidtests@wccs.nsw.edu.au.
- Any student who tests positive to COVID is required to follow NSW Health requirements under **Public Health Order** for **testing positive** and **self-isolation**. Currently, the requirement is:
 - isolate for 7 days following the positive test
 - leave isolation after 7 days unless they have symptoms (including, a sore throat, runny nose, cough, or shortness of breath).

It is expected that schools will no longer have to send cohorts home or undertake contact tracing when there is a case within the school. In the place of contact tracing there will be a generic letter used to alert the school community that there has been a case and to monitor for symptoms. There will be no requirement to differentiate between close/casual contacts. The school will determine who the letter needs to be sent to – just a class or a wider group depending on the situations.

Masks:

- High school students need to wear masks when indoors or on public transport.
- Primary students are strongly encouraged to wear masks when indoors or on public transport.
- Adults are required to wear masks when indoors.
- As part of our COVID Safe Plan to minimise risk to members of our school community, parents are to wear a mask during carpark drop off and pick up, if outside your car.

Ventilation and cleaning:

- Good ventilation is being maintained in classrooms with open windows and doors, supplemented where necessary with air purifiers.
- Cleaning requirements for schools have been modified, however, high contact surfaces will continue to receive regular heightened cleaning.

Expectations regarding Rapid Antigen Home Tests (RAHT):

- The school is still waiting on specific details regarding this. A separate letter will be sent to families closer to the start of term regarding this topic.

First days of school for new students (Prep, Kindergarten, Year 7 and new students) and other activities:

- 'First day' arrangements for students and parents will be communicated to families.
- Other calendar activities will be risk assessed and details of each will be communicated to families.

Uniform Shop and Canteen:

- For information about uniform shop orders and opening hours please see <https://wccs.nsw.edu.au/enrolments/uniform/>.
- Lunch orders may be ordered using Munch Monitor. Counter service is not available for the time being.

Communication:

- Ensure you have the SchoolApp on your smartphone and can log into Edumate to access school communication. If you require assistance with either, please contact the school via edumate@wccs.nsw.edu.au.

While we are expecting some disruptions to regular school life, it is our aim to provide consistency in schooling while engaging in ongoing assessment of our activities, so they maintain COVID safe measures. I look forward to working with all families as we settle into this new year, along with all the wonderful experiences it will hold.

Yours sincerely,



Keith McMullen