

**Aim High:
aspire, learn,
achieve**



MOWBRAY HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Issue No. 14 20th May 2020

Dear Families

Public Health advice is clear – it is safe for schools to be open. This is because we have a low rate of COVID-19 community spread in Tasmania and there has been increased and expanded testing. To reduce the risk even further, schools have hygiene and physical distancing measures in place. While it is safe for children to be at school, we still need adults to maintain a distance from other adults. It is very important that parents and carers observe physical distancing and hygiene protocols when picking up and dropping off their child. Advice is that the biggest risk of transmission of COVID-19 on school sites is from adults congregating.

At MHPS we are implementing appropriate physical distancing measures, including designated drop-off and pick-up points in spacious areas, and encouraging parents and carers to keep their distance from school grounds if possible. These temporary arrangements will be in place from Monday 25th May.

To help us with adult physical distancing, all parents and carers are required to:

'Stop, Drop and Go' for all drop offs and 'Collect and Go' for all pickups



This means in the mornings parents and carers will not be allowed on site.

Leadership Team members and specialist teachers will meet students at the gates and accompany them to their classroom if required.



This means in the afternoons parents and carers will not be allowed on site before 3:00 pm.

At 3:00 pm parents and carers of students in Kindergarten – Year 2 can enter the school grounds to collect their child from outside their classroom (Kindergarten A families are to collect their child from the Kindergarten Yard). Parents and carers of students in Years 3 – 6 may collect their child from Area D (basketball court, Cadorna Street) if required. All families must leave the grounds promptly.

It will be important for your child to be clear about their drop-off and pick-up arrangements. Please discuss your family's plan with your child. If you have a message for your child's teacher please email them or call the school office on 63 261892. We want to make school as safe as possible for everyone.

Some answers to frequently asked questions are on page 2 of this newsletter, however, feel free to ask questions of our staff if you require any further information.

We all have a shared responsibility to act in a way that supports everyone's safety. Sincere thanks to all our families for your support in the most challenging of circumstances. Until there is a vaccine for COVID-19, we will all have to continue to follow the rules and commit to our new way of life.

#stayhomesavelives

FAQs - Returning to Learning at School

For Tasmanian Government Schools, all Kindergarten to Year 6 students will return to learning at school from **Monday 25 May**. It is important that until your child is due to return to school they continue to learn at home. This is vital in helping to support the Tasmanian community in its fight against the spread of COVID-19. Schools will remain open for students who cannot be supervised or supported to learn at home for the remainder of this week.

Is it safe for students to return to school?

The decision to return to school through a phased approach is informed by public health advice. Schools are identified as safe places for students and staff, and evidence suggests that they present low risk in relation to the spread of COVID-19. Maintaining health and safety for learners and staff on our school sites is a priority, and schools are implementing practices to support physical distancing between adults, and maintaining strict hygiene protocols, based on public health advice. A range of measures will continue to be in place in schools including:

• students and staff who are unwell must not attend school

- adults must not gather in and around school grounds, car parks, entrances and outside classrooms
- physical distancing of 1.5 metres is required by all adults
- Public Health advice is that physical distancing between children is not required in schools provided they are well. However, for extra precaution, physical distancing will still be encouraged where practical, provided it does not impact on education provision.
- increased cleaning frequencies of high-touch surfaces
- students will continue to engage in regular effective handwashing and hygiene protocols, including regularly washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser, and covering coughs and sneezes

Is it expected that students will attend school from Monday 25th May?

Yes. Once students resume school-based learning, they will no longer be supported by their school with learning at home. Some parents or carers may wish for their child to continue learning at home due to concerns about COVID-19. If you choose for your child to continue to learn at home, your school will not be required to continue to support your child with this form of learning as schools will be open. In this situation you will remain responsible for your child during this period, which includes ensuring they stay home and continue their learning. Resources to support learning at home can be accessed on the Department of Education website at <https://www.education.tas.gov.au/learning-at-home/>. As is currently the case, parents or carers will be required to communicate with the school about their child's absence from school. This includes when a parent or carer chooses to keep their child at home due to concerns about COVID-19, as well as when a child is ill.

What if my child is unable to attend school due to being medically vulnerable due to COVID-19 health concerns?

In these situations your child will still continue to be supported by schools with their learning at home. As is currently the case, parents will be required to communicate with the school about the child's absence from school and you will be required to provide appropriate medical advice where this has not previously been provided. This information will be used to support decision-making regarding the suitability of on-site education and wellbeing for your child. When you contact the school with this information you should also discuss the support the school can provide to assist you with your child's learning at home.

Are students who live with someone with a medical condition that makes them medically vulnerable to COVID-19 expected to return to learning at school?

Yes. The current Public Health advice is that schools are safe places for students to be and students should be learning at school. If you choose for your child to continue to learn at home, your school will not be required to continue to support your child with this form of learning as schools will be open. In this situation you will remain responsible for your child during this period, which includes ensuring they stay home and continue their learning. Resources to support learning at home can be accessed on the Department of Education website at <https://www.education.tas.gov.au/learning-at-home/>. As is currently the case, parents or carers will be required to communicate with the school about their child's absence from school. This includes when a parent or carer chooses to keep their child at home due to concerns about COVID-19, as well as when a child is ill.

Will Launching into Learning programs be offered in Term 2?

Launching into Learning on school sites will not be offered during Term 2. Launching into Learning may commence from Term 3 on a site by site basis, subject to public health advice. Schools will continue to provide a variety of online and take home options for families to continue engaging in LiL programs.

CONTACT DETAILS

Postal Address: PO Box 131, Mowbray Heights 7248
Email: mowbray.heights.primary@education.tas.gov.au

Street Address: 20-30 Cadorna Street, Mowbray Heights **Phone:** 6326 1892
Web: mowbrayheightsprimary.education.tas.edu.au