



St Dominic's Catholic Primary School is committed to the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of Catholic education.

St Dominic's School acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of this land.



IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

Thurs. 3 March	Enrolment Tours (bookings required)
Mon. 7 March	Enrolment Tours (bookings required)
Tues. 8 March	School Photos
Tues. 8 March	PFA Meeting 7pm (see Operoo)
Wed. 9 March	Year 6 & Staff Buddy Breakfast 7.45am
Thurs. 10 March	Enrolment Tours (bookings required)
Thurs. 10 March	School Newsletter
Mon. 14 March	Public Holiday
Tues. 15 March	Student Free Day/ Staff PL day (Faith Formation)
Wed. 16 March	Enrolment Tours (bookings required)
Thurs. 17 March	School Bulletin
Fri. 18 March	Enrolment Tours (bookings required)

Lent begins....

*Loving God,
help us to remember your promise to be with us
always, to guide us in our lives and bring us
closer to you. In this special time of Lent, we
pray that you strengthen us in our desert times,
and trust in you with all our hearts.*



From Little things Big things grow!

Environment and Sustainability



We are planning to create a greener and more attractive, productive and sustainable educational environment within the whole footprint of our school.

All external aspects of our school are included - playgrounds, play equipment, garden structures, plants for particular precincts and unused space that can be better used, so as to more clearly demonstrate our commitment to a safer and more sustainable school environment going forward.

We are looking for input and assistance from interested and enthusiastic parents, as well as ideas and advice from those in our community who may have landscaping skills, plant knowledge and other such expertise.

If you would like to be involved or can recommend a local contact, please contact either Natalie Kenny or myself. Every idea will be gratefully accepted! Thank you, Tom Gorman



**We are SunSmart -
Hats On!
Remember....
no hat, no play!**



Slip



Slop



Slap



Seek



Slide

COVID UPDATES & REMINDERS

Note: the following information has also been shared with all families via Operoo, and it is expected that Parents/Carers have read this. Please contact our office if there are any concerns or questions.

Our school is responsible for ensuring the safety of our community, and all COVID Safe measures are in accordance with current health directives and advice from MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools).

Parents/Carers,

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria works closely with the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET) and Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), to ensure school practices reflect current advice and support the needs of their school communities.

In order for St. Dominic's School to ensure all risk assessment and necessary safety measures are adhered to, we ask that all staff, families and students operate in accordance with COVID Safe measures.

Thank you to all families who are working to support the Covid Safe measures we have in place. We have had some Covid cases over the past month, as well as several students isolating due to being a household contact. I thank our Staff and Families for the partnership and communication which has supported those impacted, and in ensuring students return to school safely.

Gradually, as Covid Safe measures continue and MACS School Operations Guide is changing, we will be able to invite parents back into the school.

As of this week, we are permitted to have visitors and volunteers in our school, however they must adhere to COVID Safe requirements – this strictly includes: vaccination, physical distancing, face mask requirements, cough etiquette, and good hand hygiene.

Over the coming weeks, we will advise you further of the opportunities to invite parents back into school as parent helpers, keeping in line with the Covid Safe requirements above. As communities in partnership in the education and care of your children, we look forward to opening up to re-engage our families in as many ways as possible and as safely as possible.

Additional Updates to the School Operations Guide:

School events

- School community events are permitted (further details to follow, keeping in accordance with all Covid Safe measures outlined above)
- Schools and event organisers should still apply a risk assessment and implement required risk mitigation measures.

Face masks

- Primary school staff will be required to always wear masks indoors (exemption from this requirement if primary school staff are actively teaching and clear enunciation or visibility of their mouth is essential)
- Masks are not compulsory for teachers and staff outdoors, however they are strongly recommended if physical distance cannot be maintained, even outdoors.
- Students in Grade 3 to Grade 6 must wear a face mask indoors, including age equivalent children

Rapid antigen testing

- Free rapid antigen tests will be made available for all staff and students in Victorian schools throughout Term 1 2022.
- The Department of Education and Training will distribute rapid antigen test kits directly to schools for use throughout Term 1 2022.

Staff/student has contracted COVID-19, completed their 7- day isolation period and is asymptomatic.

- Staff/ students can safely return to school.
- They do not need to be tested if they have been re-exposed within 30 days of ending their self isolation.
- The school should confirm that the staff/student has completed their 7-day isolation period.

Staff/student with a positive RAT (probable case) who receives a negative PCR test within 48 hours after the positive RAT.

- Staff/student can end their self-isolation period.
- They can safely return to school.
- Recommend that they notify the school of negative PCR test result.
- If staff/students are too unwell to attend school, usual leave/absence policies apply.

Required vaccinations for school staff

- The Victorian Minister for Health has determined that COVID-19 vaccination is mandatory for staff who work in schools.
- All staff are required to have received three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine unless a medical exemption applies.

Other visitors to schools (not performing work)

- Service Victoria QR code check-in is not required at schools. Routine school visitor record keeping arrangements will continue to apply.
- In Victorian Catholic schools, parents, carers and other adult visitors who enter school buildings must be able to show evidence of two doses of COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exemption.

*The following limited exceptions also apply:

- when attending to administer medical treatment to their own child when the treatment cannot be administered by the school
- when attending to collect their child who is unwell and cannot leave the school building unaccompanied by their parent/carer
- when attending for a momentary period that does not involve any sustained contact with staff or students, for example, to collect a completed art project, collecting a packet of rapid antigen test or similar.
- Proof of vaccination can be checked by a COVID-19 digital certificate (Service Victoria app or smartphone wallet) or printed copy of a digital certificate or immunisation history statement.

Students, staff and families arriving from overseas

- There are additional requirements in place for students and families who arrive from overseas (both returning local students and international students).
- Refer to Information for overseas travellers | Coronavirus Victoria for current requirements.

Yours in partnership

Natalie Kenny - Principal