

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is good to know that we can finally start back at school again, and the staff and I are looking forward to it immensely!

I would like to acknowledge the work of all the wonderful staff at Kallista Primary, who have worked tirelessly and with great dedication over this time. Their attention to the students’ wellbeing and engagement has been outstanding- as has their amazing collaboration and support of one another. I am deeply grateful.

Thank you also, to all our parent community. Your good will, encouragement and support over the last several weeks has meant so much to our whole staff.

It has been a time of uncertainty, change and challenge. It’s also been different for everyone. There’s perhaps been opportunity for learning, development and innovation, for finding new ways to interact with the world in isolation, for settling in to oneself, and for connecting more deeply into home and family.

I do hope that all our community has been able to adapt, and maintained a sense of wellbeing throughout this period.

If at any time you need more information about support, this link may be helpful.

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-resources-coronavirus-covid-19>

The last page of this document has other useful links.

As always student wellbeing is a key focus at our school. We will be spending time re-connecting and re-establishing familiar routines and activities with the children, in order to provide them with a sense of certainty and security, and a sense of fun and learning purpose.

Re-establishing our relationships across the school and practising good communication will be a major goal, and as always, will supported by the teaching program in classrooms.

We also want to be able to support you as parents to communicate your concerns about your child/children’s welfare, and request that you keep in touch by phone and email as much as possible. Please read the school policy for further guidance. Although the physical distancing measures must be followed, we are committed to supporting you and your child.

Over Term 2, we will also find out from the children, what they have enjoyed about learning remotely. What worked for them, and what didn’t work so well. Their feedback will enhance our practice and teaching program as we move forward.

We are committed to providing a safe learning and working environment for our students and staff. We ask for the whole school community to follow our Kallista Primary School COVID -19 Return to School Policy guidelines to enable us to provide the safest possible environment during this time.

I have sent the whole policy out to our KPS community today, and ask you to read it. It outlines important operational information for everyone. I hope that the following pages highlight the main points so that you find it easier to talk about returning to school with your children. Helping them to watch the Return to School video, and read the social stories on Facebook and in Compass will be a good start to a conversation about returning to school.

In particular, please note the Information about arrivals and departures as this is important to keep us all safe.

Thanks to you all.

Chris Finighan

Principal

Kallista PS

97552633

INFORMATION FOR THE CHILDREN ABOUT RETURNING TO SCHOOL

Attendance: You must be well to attend school.

Hygiene: WATER BOTTLES AND WASHING!

Bring your own water bottles and wash (or sanitise) your hands all the time. Your teachers will show you where the sanitiser is in the classroom and school grounds. You must sanitise before and after using anything you share- like computers, READERS, or sports equipment for example.

Cleaning our school: There will be more washing and cleaning of surfaces we all touch during the day

Yard Duty: Teachers and other staff will be on yard duty as usual

First aid and sick bay: We have another first aid room set up next to Mrs Fin’s office in case we need more room for physical distancing. As always our teachers and staff will help you if you don’t feel well.

Specialists and other programs: You will still have all the fun of specialist programs. Groove Foundations will continue on line lessons, and Lisa will do Quicksmart and Toe by Toe a bit differently- still online like in Learning From Home time!

School arrival and departure: There will be special arrangements for drop off and pick-ups each day. We will be waving good bye to parents at the gate from June 9th and teachers will be there to help you all get used to this new routine. We are here to help you feel safe, and happy at school

 MOST IMPORTANT of all

We are here to help!

All our school staff care about you all!

Ask your teachers if you have any questions when you are back at school!

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**Please read the following information about Stage 1 and 2**

**\*pick-ups and drop-offs**

**\*entry and exit points**

**\* etc**

**RETURN TO SCHOOL:**

**STAGE 1- Prep to Year 2: Tues 26th May to Friday June 5th**

**STAGE 2- All children back at school Tues June 9th to Friday June 26th**

All students at Kallista Primary School begin their day at 9am and finish at 3.30pm

**There will be three entry and exit points available for parents and students to use-**

**On Kallista-Emerald Road -**

* ENTRY: The main lych-gate at the front office
* EXIT: The gate with steps going down to blue breezeway door.

**On Monbulk Road -**

* ENTRY & EXIT: The single access pedestrian gate next to double gate.

Parents will not be allowed in buildings unless through prior arrangement with Principal.

In Stage One, parents may come into grounds to drop off Prep to Yr 2 students,

HOWEVER in Stage Two, parents need to say goodbye at the gates.

Parents will be asked to respect social distancing protocols. Close proximity between adult members of the school community of course should be avoided, particularly during school drop-off and pick-up times. We will ask parents to avoid congregating near entry points and to minimise their time on school grounds in Stage One.

The entry points will be supervised by staff each morning and will open at 8:45am. Parents are asked to avoid arriving at school earlier than this. Please stay in your car until 8.45am if you are early.

**RETURN TO SCHOOL**

**STAGE 1- Prep to Year 2**

**Tues 26th May to Friday June 5th**

In the first stage of return to school, we will allow the Junior School Prep to Two parents to come into the grounds to drop students at the classroom, however, parents will not be able to enter the classroom or buildings. Please follow directions on signage.

**Prep to 2’s – What morning arrival will look like**

\*Teachers will be at the doorway to welcome children in. Familiarity and continuity builds security and calm.

\*If any child is distressed, there are spots marked under JLC walkway next to the double doors, where parents can stay and help settle them. Please use the dots to physically distance from other parents. We will have Kallista PS staff close by in case assistance is needed.

\*Parents will not be able to enter buildings or the classroom, and need to leave the school grounds as soon as possible.

**Prep to 2’s – What afternoon departure will look like**

\*At the end of each day, teachers will dismiss their classes from the following places:

Foundation – Pathway / oval alongside Prep verandah
Grade 1/ 2S – Asphalt next to 1 /2S verandah
Grade 2 K – Top Basketball Court

\*Please be on time

\*Classroom teachers will remain with students until 3.45pm, at which time they will be taken to the Breezeway to be collected there.

**RETURN TO SCHOOL**

**STAGE 2- All children back at school**

**Tuesday June 9th to Friday June 26th**

In the second stage of Return to School, from June 9th, the older students Year 3 to 6 will begin school.

These students should be able to manage being dropped off and picked up independently, with teacher assistance along the way.

We also hope that the younger students in Year Prep to 2 will have gained confidence and independence, and will be able to be dropped at the gate, and come into school, with the friendly help of our staff along the way.

This will be the preferred and safest option in Stage 2, and into Term 3, if restrictions continue.

SAY GOODBYE AT THE GATES- Please support the safety and health of our school staff by encouraging your children to say good-bye at the gates.

During Stage 1, the Prep to Year 2 teachers will coach the younger students about what this will look, in order to prepare them for independence in the STAGE 2 drop-off and pick-up routines.

The children’s wellbeing matters at our school. If you have any concerns about your child’s ability to cope with saying goodbye at the gates, please communicate this with a phone call or email to the office, so that we can provide further support.

All staff will be on duty in the first week to guide students through this routine. Once students are accomplished, normal afternoon yard supervision will apply.

**Whole School—What arrival and departure will look like**

**Note- We will have a designated sibling gathering point which will be communicated**

**We may enforce a staggered departure time if it becomes necessary. TBC**

* **Kallista-Emerald Road**

**ARRIVAL**

Entry is through the lych-gate, and students will turn left to breezeway to be welcomed by teacher on duty.

Students to move to toilets to wash hands and then to classrooms.

**DEPARTURE**

At the end of the day exit is back through breezeway and directly up the adjacent steps to ‘the rocks’, or agreed parent pick up.

* **Monbulk Road (lower playground pedestrian gate)**

**ARRIVAL**

Under teacher supervision children will enter school to wash hands in JLC. Older children at toilets. Students to go to classrooms.

**DEPARTURE**

Students will move to lower playground and be picked up by parents at pedestrian gate.

Late Arrival and Early Leavers

**Late Arrival to School.**

* Any student arriving after the 9am bell must be brought to the main entrance to sign in at the office as per usual.
* No adults are to enter the building.  They may telephone the school office if necessary.
* Students must NOT be sent directly to classrooms after 9am

**Early Leavers**

* Parents are to notify the classroom teacher (via email) if their child is to leave early for an appointment, etc. The classroom teacher will ensure they are signed out at the office at the requested time.
* When you arrive to pick up your child/children, please call the office and your child will exit through the front door.
* For all unplanned Early departures, please call the office and office staff will contact the classroom teacher.

## **Who to call to get help**

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-resources-coronavirus-covid-19#who-to-call-to-get-help>

There are plenty of ways to support other people, or be supported if you are feeling anxious or uncertain.

**Lifeline Australia 13 11 14**
A crisis support service offering short term support at any time for people who are having difficulty coping or staying safe.
[www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au/)

**Beyond Blue 1800 512 348**
Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service.
<https://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au/>

**Eheadspace 1800 650 893**
Online and webchat support and counselling for 12-25 year olds, their family and friends.
[www.headspace.org.au/eheadspace/](http://www.headspace.org.au/eheadspace/)

[**Care in Mind**](https://careinmind.com.au/) - online and phone counselling for people living, working, or studying in Melbourne's northern, central, and western suburbs. Phone: 1300 096 269 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). [CareinMIND online counselling](https://careinmind.com.au/phone-and-online-counselling/careinmind-online-counselling/).

[**MensLine**](https://www.mensline.org.au/) - professional telephone and online support and information service for Australian men. Phone 1300 78 99 78 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). [MensLine online counselling](https://mensline.org.au/phone-and-online-counselling/mensline-australia-online-counselling/).

[**Mindspot**](https://mindspot.org.au/) - free telephone and online service for people with stress, worry, anxiety, low mood or depression. It provides online assessment and treatment for anxiety and depression and can help you find local services. Call 1800 61 44 34 (8am - 8pm, Monday - Friday; 8am-6pm, Saturday).

**Suicide Call Back Service** - mental health support, call back service: 1300 659 467 or online at [suicidecallbackservice.org.au](http://suicidecallbackservice.org.au/) (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

### Youth focused mental health and support services

**Headspace** - Call eheadspace on 1800 650 890 or online at [www.headspace.org.au](https://headspace.org.au/)

**Kids Helpline** - Call 1800 55 1800 or [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au/)

**ReachOut** - Online at [reachout.com.au](http://reachout.com.au/)

**SANE Australia** - Call 1800 187 263 or online at [sane.org](http://sane.org/)

### Specialist areas

**1800Respect** - confidential counselling, information and support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse via phone or online chat. Phone: 1800 737 732 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). [1800Respect online chat](https://chat.1800respect.org.au/#/welcome).

**Directline** - confidential alcohol and drug counselling and referral service. Phone: 1800 888 236 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). [Directline online counselling](https://www.directline.org.au/online-counselling).

**Switchboard Victoria** - telephone and web counselling, information, and referral service for LGBTQI people. Phone: 1800 184 527 (3pm - 12am, 7 days a week). [QLife Webchat](https://www.qlife.org.au/resources/chat).

## Resources

* Information sheet: [Mental health and coronavirus (COVID-19) information for seniors (Word)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-covid-19-information-seniors)
* Information sheet: [Mental health and coronavirus (COVID-19) information for parents and families (Word)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-covid-19-information-parents-and-families)
* Information sheet: [Mental health and coronavirus (COVID-19) information for those in isolation (Word)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-covid-19-information-those-isolation)
* **Beyond Blue** offers practical advice and resources at [**beyondblue.org.au**](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/). The [**Beyond Blue Support Service**](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/get-support/get-immediate-support) offers short term counselling and referrals by phone and webchat on **1300 22 4636.**
* **Lifeline** offers tips, resources and advice, as well as crisis and suicide support. **Phone: 13 11 14 (24 hours/7 days). Text: 0477 13 11 14 (6pm – midnight AEDT, 7 nights). Chat online:**[**www.lifeline.org.au/crisis-chat**](http://www.lifeline.org.au/crisis-chat)**(7pm - midnight, 7 nights)**
* **Phoenix Australia, the Centre for Post-Traumatic Mental Health,** offers advice, tips and resources at[**phoenixaustralia.org**](https://www.phoenixaustralia.org/)

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