



2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Tomorrow officially marks the 'beginning' of the school year. As you know a couple of weeks ago the Premier announced a 'staggered start' to the start of the teaching year with Years R-1 coming back to face to face teaching and year 2-6 learning remotely from home. This staggered start is based upon health advice and to help minimise the risk of COVID spreading in school settings. To 'pivot' to online learning quickly, the school is using 'Microsoft Teams' as the main platform for 'remote learning,' for the first time. Thank you to the teachers, leadership team and SSO support staff who have put in an enormous amount of work to get 'up to speed' with setting this up and learning to use this platform in a very short amount of time. **All of your child's remote learning information and instructions will be sent out by their teacher by late this afternoon** in readiness to start tomorrow. Please check in later if it is not currently up, as teachers are finalising and uploading remote learning programmes.

The school is ready for the start of learning tomorrow and we are excited to welcome new students/ families and current students/ families back, whether that be face to face or 'virtually' through the internet. We have put in place many safety protocols (hand hygiene, social distancing, masks for children etc.) that students and staff will follow to minimise the risk of COVID. Please read through the following information carefully.

## **Remote learning from home (year 2-6) including 'e-safety'**

Remote learning begins tomorrow. Yesterday on Skoolbag I sent you the instructions on how to join Microsoft Teams. Your class teacher should have sent you your child's username and password for 'Teams' by late today. This will then give your child access to their classes learning folder of work, plus times for 'live' check ins (two per day). Please get in touch with your teacher in the first instance if you have any questions about your child's remote learning programme. Remember you can get in touch with your child's teacher throughout the normal school day time if you have any clarifications or questions.

## **e-safety**

As you are aware that your child will be working in an online environment for some of the remote learning. It will be important that they take some basic steps including blurring their 'background', wearing appropriate clothing when online (they may even want to wear their school uniform) and using appropriate learning when online. Please click on this link <https://www.esafety.gov.au/> for more information on keeping your child safe online.



## **Remote learning for essential workers/ parents who cannot supervise their children**

If you cannot supervise your child then we will provide supervision of their online learning programme. Tomorrow if you child is in year 2 and requires remote learning supervision, please meet at 8.40am on the blue netball court in front of the book nook. From there a staff member will take you to your remote learning supervision space for the day.

If your child is in years 3-6, and requires supervision for online learning, they will meet on the blue basketball court at 8.40am, on the west side of the school. To help minimise students sharing and touching stationery etc.

- We encourage you to send your child along with their own pencils/ pens in a pencil case and a cheap/basic set of headphones if you already have them to plug into their computer. Please ensure they are labelled clearly. The school will provide access to a computer.
- ***Face masks for students for years 3-6 are strongly encouraged.*** If your child has their own mask they can wear it.

If for some reason you do not have these things, the school has some basic supplies, including face masks.

## **ICT help desk for parents**

DfE has set up a designated ICT hotline for parents who may have questions regarding getting connected to online learning or 'general trouble shooting'. If you require assistance their number is: Parent ICT Helpline - **1800 271 211**, 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

## **Reception and Year 1 returning for face to face learning from tomorrow**

To minimise the risk of COVID please remember these important safety messages:

- Adults must wear a mask when onsite at all times and use the QR check-ins around the school to sign in.
- Parents are not to enter classrooms or learning spaces (including corridors).
- Please 'kiss and drop' quickly with your child; do not congregate in groups, move off quickly and do not use the playgrounds before or after school.



## **Brand new Receptions to the school arrangements**

Our school recognises that the 'first day of school' is a special moment in your child's life. Consequently we are allowing one parent per family to wait with their child at the beginning of the day to support your child settling in. Please meet your child's teacher outside of buildings in adjacent courtyards (parents are not permitted inside buildings). Once your child has entered the class, we encourage you to move off quickly as our staff will take care of them and help them to settle quickly.

## **Canteen and Uniform shop**

Please note due to COVID restrictions we have been advised by the canteen that it is not operating for the first 2 weeks of school. If your child is at school, please ensure you send them to school with the appropriate recess and lunch as well a water bottle.

Similar to the canteen, the school's **onsite uniform shop is also closed for at least the first two weeks.** However, UMS are currently open at their Clearview store. Due to COVID spacing requirements, please call them on **0432 345 406 to confirm a time to visit or check their website on this link: <https://umspl.com.au/>**

Once again we look forward to welcoming you tomorrow. Can I ask that you are patient with staff as we begin to go down this 'hybrid' path of face to face and online learning. If you require any further information about your child's learning, contact your child's teacher in the first instance. If you require any further school information in general, please contact the front office and we will assist you.

Thank you.

Kind regards

David Cowles  
Principal  
Mawson Lakes School