

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

Dear SFX Families,

A sincere and warm welcome back to the new school year that is almost upon us. A reminder that school begins for all students on:

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February @ 8.55 am – Year 1 to 6 students**  
**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February @ 8.55 am – Year Prep students**

We are looking forward to the return of all students. Whenever possible we will let 'normality' guide what we do each day so that good learning routines are established early and easily.

As most would be aware, when we said goodbye to each other at the end of Term 4 we had around 1500 COVID cases in Victoria. Little did we know that the OMICRON variant would see our cases sky rocket to over 30,000. Yesterday we were issued with the latest COVID Directives for schools. My duty as Principal is to keep both staff and students safe and healthy and away from COVID to the best of my abilities. However, each of us has a part to play if we want our school and classes to remain open with uninterrupted onsite learning and children to stay COVID free.

### SFX STAFF

There is no magic pool of teachers we can draw on if teachers become ill. However all SFX staff will be triple vaccinated by February 25<sup>th</sup> or earlier. In early January we took delivery of 14 Government issued air purifiers. We will place one of these air purifiers in each classroom as that is where students spend the most time together. We have not been issued with purifiers that will cover staff areas or specialist teaching areas. Staff will wear masks indoors, hand sanitise and socially distance. We have also been asked not to use classroom airconditioning without the external doors and windows being opened. This reduces the effect of the refrigerated airconditioning we have in each class, which may make our classes warmer than usual over the coming months.



### SFX STUDENTS

It is reassuring that more than 30%+ of Victorian Primary students are already immunized. My hope is that this translates to the SFX student community.

We will be issues with R.A.T (Rapid Antigen Tests) for each child for the month of February. Here is the procedure for the administration of these which I sincerely hope that all SFX parents will commit to for the safety of their child, other students and the staff.

**Parents will be asked to come and pick up from the SFX office their FREE pack of 5 R.A.T packs. This will happen on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January. These will be signed out under each student's name.**

***We have been promised by the Victorian Government that these R.A.T tests will arrive at school prior to Monday. Please wait for an Updat-Ed Push Notification notifying you they have arrived prior to coming to school.***

We will ask all students (and staff) be R.A.T tested on:

### **WEEK 1**

Year 1 – 6 – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February and then again on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. This should happen before students attend school on that day.

Preps – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February

### **WEEK 2**

All staff and students are to R.A.T test on a Monday and Wednesday morning before attending school  
**FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**- All students and staff will take home another 5 pack R.A.T test for Week 3 & 4

## WEEK 3 & 4

All staff and students are to R.A.T test on a Monday and Wednesday morning before attending school

We have been directed to continue with the separation of classes or 'bubbles' during recess and lunchtime, and that the seven times a day + routine of hand sanitising continue.

It remains **mandatory** for all students in Year 3 – 6 to wear a facemask when indoors unless a sighted medical exemption applies. It remains the **strong recommendation** that all Year Prep to 2 students wear a facemask whilst indoors. We would suggest purchasing a box of facemasks and having it in your child's bag. Facemasks can be any colour, any style, any design. The SFX School office will no longer be providing free facemasks to those students who forget theirs at home. This became frightfully expensive when we were going through a box of 50 every day at the end of last year. Facemasks may ultimately become part of our school uniform and we ask parents to supply these as they would with any other part of their uniform.

As a further precaution there will be no sharing of food during this time and both recess/lunch foods will be eaten indoors. There will be no birthday treats at this stage. We understand that this may be disappointing to students and not within the SFX spirit but see it as another way of keeping students COVID free and students at school.

### **SFX PARENTS**

If your child or anyone in your family test positive for COVID during this period please call:

- Coronavirus hotline at 1800 675 398
- Then please call SFX School on Ph: 9435 8474 to let us know so that we can anonymously notify the school community

So that we can have instant and live communication with parents I would strongly encourage all parents to download the Updat-Ed app. It is free to download from the App Store. This will be the main form of communication with parents when we are notified of a positive COVID case with the student community.



**School will conclude for all Year 1 – 6 students at 3.30pm.** However students will be directed out different gates and will be separated in the Kiss & Drop area for pick up in the afternoon.

Parents may come to the school office, but must QR code at the Office, always wear a face mask, maintain social distancing and can only enter if they are double vaccinated.

We discourage parents congregating around the school gates at the beginning and end of the day.

**The School Canteen** will open weekly for a lunch order only service beginning on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February. There will be no counter sales during this time.

We encourage all students to have a filled water bottle at school each day. Students may refill these during the day from the school bubblers, however we discourage students from directly drinking from them.

**The School Uniform Shop will be open on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> from 10.30am to 12.30am** for those last-minute purchases where children have grown over the holidays.

Our first school newsletter of the year will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

The SFX Staff are so looking forward to working with you and your child during the 2022 school year.

Let's remain positive, supportive, hopeful and vigilant.

Most of all let us continue to care about each other within the SFX Community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Cachia'.

Philip Cachia  
Principal

