

# Greenwell Point Public School



# NEWSLETTER

*School Motto – Growing and Learning Together*

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PRINCIPAL: Ms Cathie Secombe

1st February, 2022

Term 1 Week 2

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### FEBRUARY

- 1 Students return
- 2-4 Best Start Kindergarten
- 7 Kindergarten first day

### MARCH

### APRIL

- 1 STEPS (Eyesight test)  
Kinder only
- 6 School Photos

## COVID RULES

If you need to enter the school grounds please scan the QR code and sign in at the office.

## NO HAT NO PLAY

No hat will be given to any student who forget their hat.  
They will play under the cola.

Hat—\$12 Uniform Shop

## IMPORTANT REQUEST

Please **DO NOT** bring peanuts or use peanut butter at school.

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year, an exciting time as our students start or return to their school journey.

I want to share how we are building on our experiences of the last 2 years and continuing to safeguard our school community while keeping our school open, where we know the best learning happens.

We will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health to help to minimise transmissions at school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority, and these measures are designed to help to keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

These key measures include:

- Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits will be provided to all students to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school.
- Wearing of surgical masks indoors is required for all staff and are strongly recommended for all primary students. Masks will be provided by the school if required.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come on a school site.
- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or students starting at a new school.
- Students will be kept in their year groups on school grounds, and we will continue with multiple drop-off and pick-up locations. Please remember to not congregate outside of the school grounds.
- Canteen will remained closed for the first few weeks to monitor any spread of infection. We will reassess after this period.
- We will continue to use good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.

While this is not going to be a normal start to the school year, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow. Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than usual.

### **Rapid antigen testing:**

We distributed packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff at the start of Term 1. We are expecting another delivery soon and will notify parents of pick up times and locations.

The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.

Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely. You can also download the instructions through the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) <https://www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-rapid-antigen-self-tests-are-approved-australia> website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

Haven't yet picked up your RAT kits?

If you have not yet received your RAT kits you may phone the office to arrange a collection time. Additional tests are being delivered to the school this week so we will notify all parents of times and places for collection. Unfortunately we cannot send kits home with students. If you cannot attend the site to pick up the RAT kit please arrange for another parent/carer or family member to do so on your behalf. Please contact the school to notify us of who will be collecting the kits on your behalf.

### **Additional information**

- **School staff will not be administering the rapid antigen tests to students.**
- RAT kits should be collected from school by a parent or carer and the tests completed at home in the morning before attending school.
- Each student will receive an initial supply of 2 RATs to be used twice a week in the morning before attending school. Please repeat this next week once you receive your additional 2 kits.
- If a student or staff member receives a **positive** RAT test, they need to: record the positive RAT result through the Service NSW <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/testing/register-positive-rat-test-result> or Service NSW app <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/service-nsw-mobile-app> notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR test result as soon as possible follow NSW Health advice <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/self-isolation-and-testing.aspx> to isolate for 7 days. Negative results **do not** need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

### **Unwell at school:**

Any student or staff member who is unwell and/or displays symptoms of COVID-19 will be asked to go home and stay until they can complete a RAT or PCR test.

- If symptoms continue, they should stay at home and take another RAT in 24 hours or have a PCR test. If the second RAT or initial PCR test result is negative, the student or staff member can return to school.

What happens when a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19

Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. I will inform the school community when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.

### **Use of surgical masks:**

All primary and secondary school staff will be required to wear masks indoors. No vented or cloth masks should be worn. If required surgical masks will be available at schools. Primary school students are strongly recommended to wear well-fitted masks indoors.

Masks are also strongly encouraged in outdoor settings where you cannot physically distance. Your child can remove their mask when eating, exercising or playing a musical instrument.

For more information, refer to Face masks in NSW <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/wearing-face-masks-during-covid-19>

### **Visitors on school sites and vaccinations**

No parents, carers or visitors will be allowed on school site until further notice with the following exceptions:

- Two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or for students starting at a new school.

- Volunteers or staff operating uniform shops/canteens must be fully vaccinated.
- Visitors supporting school operations and curriculum delivery must be fully vaccinated.
- Allied health partners for the wellbeing of students must be fully vaccinated.

All staff on school sites are required to be fully vaccinated, including having their booster when eligible.

We strongly encourage our students and their families to consider vaccination when eligible.

Find a vaccination clinic <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/> to book an appointment near you.

Other key measures:

### ***Ventilation***

We will continue to follow NSW Health ventilation guidelines that natural ventilation is the most effective measure so we will maximise fresh air flow in learning spaces through opening doors and windows.

This approach is strongly supported by expert advice. Where natural ventilation is not sufficient, mechanical ventilation and/or air purification will be used and we will continue to use outdoor settings where possible.

Air purifiers have been provided to schools as a supplementary measure to support common areas in schools and can be deployed at the principal's discretion. These purifiers could be located in areas where high levels of student and staff mixing occurs.

### ***Cleaning***

We continue to have enhanced cleaning focusing on high-touch and high-traffic areas.

### ***Physical distancing***

We will continue to follow physical distancing guidelines and maintain 1.5 metres distance wherever possible.

### ***School assemblies***

We will continue with our plans to hold a whole school assemblies in weeks 5 and 10. We will notify parents if there are any changes and whether or not attendance by parents will be permitted. In the event that parents cannot attend we will continue to post photos of award winners on our schools Facebook page and on the schools website.

Thank you again for your continued support during this school term. Please look out for reminders and notes coming home.

Kind Regards,  
Catherine Secombe  
Principal

### **P&C NEWS**

Did you know that the P&C meet once a month on a Tuesday night in the school library? If you would like to join the P&C or would like any more information just ring Rachael on 0401 621 662.

Every Friday night the P&C run the Pub raffle at the Greenwell Point Hotel as they have done so for a few years. We are looking for volunteers to help sell raffle tickets, it only takes around two hours of your time and raise valuable money for a great little school. If you are interested in helping out or have any questions please contact Natalie on 0402 403 916.

Uniforms can be ordered on the MY SCHOOL CONNECT app.  
Please note that uniforms orders will only be completed on a **Tuesday**.



## **BIRTHDAYS**

**Congratulations and Happy Birthday to students for birthdays in January & beginning of February.**

Isabel H in 5/6

Airlie in 2/3

Lilly-Rose in 1/2

Olivia W in 5/6

Trent in 2/3

Aleisha in 2/3

Izzy in 2/3

Lisette in 1/2

Abbie in 5/6

Deagan in 3/4/5

