

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be A Learner

December 2023

I can't believe that there is only 2 more weeks of the 2023 school year!

Classroom Learning

As we move into the time of year when **Assessment and Reporting is a high focus**. It's so great to see all of the great learning that has occurred in class this year! All of the students should be so proud of reaching their learning goals both in their classroom work and other areas of the school.

Nightly Reading

Well done to everyone who has kept up their nightly reading routines! Many students have reached impressive reading milestones so far this year —Please keep reading in the holidays too and remember to sign reading diaries.



End of Year

A reminder that the last day for M.C.S is 14th of December. For us, end of day dismissal will be a normal time of 3:30.

Awards Night

A reminder Awards Night is fast approaching! Students will be showcasing their art works as well as performing some Christmas Carols. End of Year Awards and Scholarships will also be awarded.



Christmas Raffle

We are once again running a raffle to be drawn at our End of Year Art Show and Awards evening. Please keep selling tickets.

Surfing Lessons

To celebrate the end of the year I've booked the students in for some surfing lessons. We will travel down to Port Fairy 1st thing in the morning. Please be prompt on the day.



Swimming Lessons

A *heads up* that swimming lessons will start the 2nd day back of the 2024 school year. If you have the opportunity to take your child to the Merino Pool in the holidays that will help them further develop their swimming skills for when we return.



Parent Teacher Interviews—Please make a time with your students' teacher to chat and discuss your child's school report.

2024 Kitchen

A reminder that no Kitchen will run for the 1st four weeks of school due to swimming lessons. 1st Kitchen class will be the 1st of March.

2024 Term Dates

2024 Victorian school term dates

2024	Start date	Finish date
Term 1	29 January (students start 30 January in government schools)	28 March
Term 2	15 April	28 June
Term 3	15 July	20 September
Term 4	7 October	20 December

December

7th—End of Year Art Show, Speeches and Awards

**13th—Surfing Lessons in Port Fairy
Reports Handed Out**

14th—Last Day of Term 4 for Merino CS Students

15th—Parent/teacher Interviews

18th—2023 School Archiving

19th & 20th—2024 Staff Planning Day

January 2024

Tuesday 30th January

Students Return

Wednesday 31st

Swimming Lessons Commence

February

23rd Last Swimming Day (weather permitting)

March

18th PLANKS Incursion

28th last day of Term 1

Dismissal at 2:30

April

15th—Term 2 Returns



Bushfire At-Risk Register - Schools



2023 - 2024 Fire Season

School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days' notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter or phone call. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

As a bus co-ordinating school all bus routes will be cancelled.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan, and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- **Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.** Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and by checking our website, ClassDojo, <http://www.dmsc.vic.edu.au/> or Facebook page.

If you have any further concerns, please contact either Genevieve Hulin (Principal/ Class Teacher) the school. 0355791305.

Our school is listed as a **Bus Coordinating School for the School Bus Program (SBP)**

An update to Department policy schools **that have bus routes that are within, or pass-through, weather districts where the fire danger is determined to be Code Red will be cancelled.**



**OUR SCHOOL
STANDS UP FOR
INCLUSION
+
DIVERSITY**



**SAFE
SCHOOLS**

**THE
EDUCATION
STATE**

VICTORIA
State
Government | Education
and Training

One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

What you need to know

1. If a child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they must stay at home

If a child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school/early childhood education and care (ECEC) as soon as possible.

2. If a child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) outlined below, however mild, they should get tested and they must remain at home until they receive their results:

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss of sense of smell or taste.

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered symptoms.

For further advice:

- call the 24-hour coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline 1800 675 398
- call a general practitioner
- use the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) [online self-assessment tool](#).

Visit: [Where to get tested](#).

3. A child must stay at home until they are symptom free, even if their coronavirus (COVID-19) test is negative

If a person has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) they must isolate until they receive clearance from the Department of Health and Human Services. Read the [What to do if you've tested positive for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) factsheet](#) (PDF) for more information.

If a person is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) the Department of Health and Human Services will get in contact to tell them they are a close contact of a person who is confirmed to have coronavirus (COVID-19). A close contact must quarantine at home. Read the [What to do if you have been in close contact with someone with coronavirus \(COVID-19\) factsheet](#) (Word) for more information.

For information on the minimum periods students and children need to stay at home for other conditions, refer to the [DHHS school exclusion table](#).

4. Children do NOT need a medical certificate before returning to school/ECEC

Once symptoms have cleared, there is no requirement from the Department of Education and Training or DHHS for children/students to have a medical certificate before they return to school/ECEC.

Thank you for your support in following these steps, together we can all stay safe.

