

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be A Learner

March 2023

Term 1 has been such a whirlwind! Hard to believe that we only have 4 weeks to go until Term 1 Holidays! A few messages for events ahead...

Merino Market

Thanks so much to everyone who donated goods to sell or came down to support us on the day. We had a great day and raised much needed funds for our school camp.

Trivia

We are once again running a Trivia evening here at school. Get a table together and come along to support the school to raise funds for our upcoming school camp. Any donations for our Raffle Hamper will be most appreciative.

Wellness Day

We are again hosting a Wellness Day here at Merino CS. Each year we gather together to take part in activities that promote wellness. Connecting with others is one way we do this; we will again host Dartmoor and Sacred Heart PS. Marnoo PS will also join us in the afternoon and will sleep over at Merino before returning to their school the following day.

Archery

Unfortunately, the lessons that I had arranged for Week 1 and 2 in Term 2 are no longer able to go ahead. I've had people say 'yes' to lessons and then have to

withdraw. Finding an instructor during school hours seems to be a sticking point. I haven't given up I just haven't found a way to be successful—yet... I'll keep you posted!

Parent Breakfast

March 31st we will host a Parent Breakfast. Please let me know if you plan on coming along to help with catering. Hope to see you there!

As always, If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to drop in or call for a chat :)

Term 1 Information:

Digby Ladies Community group

Every Friday @ 10am

15th Naplan Begins (Yrs 3 & 5)

17th AFL Session 11:30—12:30

20th March—Merino CS Wellness Day

**27th March—BioCats Excursion
(6:15am departure from Hamilton)**

31st March—Parent Breakfast

**6th April—Term 1 Last Day—School
Dismissal @ 2:30**

Term 2

24th April—Pupil Free

25th April— ANZAC DAY

26th April— Students Return

28th April—Trivia Evening

A reminder that no Kitchen classes run during the 1st and last weeks of term—please supply students lunches



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.



Bushfire At-Risk Register - Schools



2022 - 2023 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.**