

Principal Report

Dear Parents,

It has been such an interesting term to say the least. We have certainly had some ups and downs and there have been challenges as parents that I am sure you thought you would never see! But we have all held hands (metaphorically) and our children have felt supported and guided and safe. Keep in mind over the holidays, the adult reactions to changes. We have noticed the children do pick up on the reactions of parents when the news is on and in their world they cannot comprehend the news and media, so they look to their trusted person for reactions, worries and concerns. Let's continue to focus on their needs and support them through any changes that come our way. At present there has been no change in guidance from the department, at this stage what has been in place will remain in place for Term 3.

We would like to send a massive thank you to teachers, for their ongoing support of children and their families. They have gone over and above in some areas to meet the needs of children and families at this time. They have had to upskill, re-skill and learn on the run this term and they have all had times of ups and downs, but the positive mindset and collegial support has really been what has been most evident. Thank you to the families who have acknowledged the wonderful work of our teachers and shown support in many ways. Behind the scenes there has been some amazing work of our SSO's. From the extra love and support of Business Manager Michelle to her team of SSO's who have wiped tears, made our kids smile through tough times, to giving parents that extra bit of support and reassurance. Your work does not go unnoticed and we appreciate the extra effort you all put in.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday and encourage you to make it feel like a holiday even if you can't venture far! We have heard some lovely ideas of tents being set up in backyards and some campfires with marshmallows. Focus the time around connectedness, because that is what we all need. Enjoy your time together and create memories just like you would any time of the year. Enjoy the moments!

Steiner inspired

Learning with Head Heart & Hands

School council are seeking some grant writers in our community of parents. We have some wonderful grants coming up and we are wondering if there is anyone who can take this on. In particular the next grant writing application relates to something that is close to the hearts of everyone at Briar Hill and this is the use of power sources! We want to cut down our electricity bill by having new solar panels installed – if you have a love of all things environment, please send an email to school council by the contact on the website.

The school playground may not go ahead these holidays, due to the weather and bog factor on the oval. After careful review we have decided to extend this until the September holidays. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered their time and some new plants for the sensory playground. If you have any contacts at all for further donations, please let us know! We are seeking tunnels, logs, large rocks and edging, sensory stones, bamboo trees for hideouts, water play equipment and outdoor kitchens. It will be a fabulous addition to the play area.

We hope you all have a lovely break and enjoy your time with family. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in Term 3.

Bridy Fitzpatrick
Assistant Principal

COVID Update

At this stage there is no change to the arrangements that are currently in place for next term.

If we receive any changes to this advice during the school holidays I will communicate this to you via Compass.

So the arrangements stand including drop offs at the different gates and no parents on site.

We have also been asked to share the attached message from the Chief Health Officer for Victoria.

Have a great break and stay safe,

Rowan Kayll
Principal

Victorian Chief Health Officer message to parents

I am writing to Victorian parents, carers and students today to seek every family's support in slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Victoria.

As the school holidays approach, we can't ease up on looking after ourselves and our families. The only thing between us and a second wave is what we do next.

Wherever you go, please be mindful of the risks. Be aware others may be carrying the virus and practice physical distancing.

We are currently experiencing the highest case numbers we've seen in more than two months. Current evidence suggests that the rise in case numbers in Victoria is being driven by families having get-togethers and not following advice around physical distancing and hygiene.

Unfortunately, we are still in a pandemic and people's lives are still at risk. As we've seen across the world, this virus has the ability to turn a small number of cases into hundreds in a matter of days.

This is not where we want to be and we must all act now – while we can.

This is why we've had to implement a number of revised restrictions. The number of visitors you can have at your home is now reduced to five. Outside the home, families and friends can meet in groups up to ten.

This is how each and every member of the community can help:

- Stay safe while out in the community.
- Stay safe at home. And that means only seeing those you need to. Don't have big family gatherings and remember to keep your distance and maintain good hygiene.
- Don't share food or drinks.
- If you, or anyone in your family is feeling unwell – stay at home. Don't visit friends and family. Don't go on holiday if you are unwell and don't go to work. Don't send your kids to school, childcare or kindergarten if they are unwell - stay home.
- And if you have symptoms, get tested.
- The vast majority of Victorians are doing the right thing, but this is a wake-up call and we cannot be complacent.
- It's up to all of us to keep our friends and families safe.

For current information and updates on coronavirus (COVID-19) visit the [Victorian Government's coronavirus website](#).

If anyone in your family has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, they should stay at home, seek advice and get tested. These symptoms include fever, chills or sweats, a cough, a sore throat, shortness of breath or runny nose, or loss of sense of smell or taste. For more information about where to get tested visit the [getting tested for coronavirus web page](#).

If you're concerned yourself or a family member has contracted the virus and need more information, please call the 24-hour coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

Adj Clin Prof Brett Sutton
Victorian Chief Health Officer

Photos of the class 5 Indian feast which was a celebration of their cooking and gardening experience!

The students made seed packets that will hopefully be sold at the Spring fair.....if we have one and decorated the dinning area.

They also made their own Indian flat bread. Their final activity was an amazing performance to a Bollywood song.

