



# Merrylands East Public School

*Create the Future*

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 1, 2021. I would especially like to welcome our new families and Kindergarten students who have joined us. The children have settled back into school and are in grade groups until the end of next week. We will endeavour to create classes by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February or Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February at the latest. The number of classes a school can form is dependent on total enrolments.

The following teachers will look after the students in their grade groups:

Kindergarten – Mrs Fernandopulle / Miss Nguyen / Miss Stretton

Year 1 – Miss Huynh / Ms Forster / Miss Le

Year 2 – Ms Gonzalez / Miss Babic

Year 3 – Mrs Cruz / Miss Asquith

Year 4 – Mrs Healy / Mrs Hitti

Year 5 – Mrs Kalank / Mrs Nguyen

Year 6 – Miss Mirzaee / Mrs McGilvray

A number of new staff members have joined our school. We welcome Mrs Nguyen as a Relieving Assistant Principal and Miss Babic, Miss Asquith, Miss Nguyen and Mrs McGilvray as classroom teachers.

It is important that we are not complacent about Covid-19 while many restrictions have been lifted. Our students will continue to hand wash and surfaces will be wiped down. We have enhanced cleaning during the day for high touch point areas.

## **Entry and Exit of School Grounds**

The NSW Department of Education guidelines continue to allow only essential visitors onto school grounds. Parents are not permitted on the grounds unless it is for a meeting requested by the Principal. Commencing this year, all schools have a QR code for essential visitors.

However, commencing Monday 1 February, 2021, the Department Covid Guidelines allows **only parents of Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 students to enter the school grounds for the purpose of dropping their child off in the morning if they choose. Parents must leave the school grounds immediately after dropping their child off.**

In the morning, parents can drop their child at any of the three gates on Walker Street (near the office), Myee Street (near the old white building) or York Street (near the Year 6 rooms). We ask that Kindergarten parents drop their child off at the Walker Street gate (near the office). The Myee Street and York Street gates will be closed at 8:05am and any late students will need to enter via the Walker Street gate. Staff will be at the gate to greet students. Teachers will be in the playground until 7:55am before moving to their classrooms in readiness for an 8am start. No parent-teacher meetings are to take place. Please ensure children arrive at school by 8am and are not late for class.

In the afternoon:

1. **All Kindergarten 2021 students and their older brother or sister will leave via the Walker Street Gate (near the office)**
2. **All Year 1 and 2 2021 students (without a brother or sister in Kindergarten) and their older brother or sister will leave via the Myee Street Gate.**
3. **All Year 3 – 6 2021 Students without a younger brother or sister in K-2 will leave via the York Street Gate.**

### **School Times**

Supervision by our school staff takes place between 7:30am and 1:15pm. Parents are asked to ensure their child is picked up at 1:15pm to minimise risks.

#### **Recess:**

10:00am – 10:30am            K-2

10:40am – 11:10am        Years 3-6

Our school encourages healthy eating. Lollies, soft drinks and chips are high in sugar or fat content and do not promote a healthy lifestyle. I would ask parents not to pack these types of foods for recess.

#### **Homework**

Homework will commence once classes are formed with the exception of Kindergarten. Home reading is the main homework for all students with additional tasks supplemented by class teachers.

#### **School Uniform**

All students are to wear school uniform every day. Red or bright coloured shoes are not allowed.

#### **Parking**

Safety is a collective responsibility for everyone. It is important not to park in the No Standing zone or Bus zone outside of the designated times. A bus zone is a “No Stopping” zone. Cumberland Rangers and or the NSW Police will book motorists for non-compliance. Students leaving the school require clear visibility when leaving the gates.

#### **Attendance**

It is important that students attend school every day. Teachers will be contacting parents if students are absent with unexplained absences. The NSW Department of Education average for primary aged students is 94% attendance. This means, students should have no more than 12 days absence in the year.

#### **Illness**

Should you or your child show flu like symptoms, it is recommended that you undertake a Covid-19 test and isolate until you have the results and are feeling well. Children should not attend school if they are unwell and will be sent home if they display flu like symptoms at school. Please call the office to let us know if your child is absent from school and send a note when they return to school.

Thank you for your co-operation in supporting our school during the pandemic. We all have a collective responsibility to ensure the safety of our family and others.

John Goh

Principal

29 January 2021