

RETURN TO SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ALL BIG HILL STUDENTS

On Monday, 5th October we welcome ALL of our students back to Big Hill Primary School. This will be an exciting time for all girls and boys (plus our staff) – but also a period of anxiety and unease as children move from the comfort of home to the routine of school. Don't despair if there are tears, or long hugs. It's all to be expected and once we get back into a routine, you will find your child benefits enormously from the familiar environment and opportunity to engage with friends each day. We will support children as they settle in also – the tears you see on departure rarely last longer than a couple of minutes once you have gone 😊

Key things to remember when your child/ren return are:

- Please drop children off and depart. Try not to linger – as we are to ensure adults are not congregating or breaching social distancing rules. If your child is unsettled, you can walk them to the room if you have to, but do not enter classes please. Adults other than staff only should enter a building when invited in,
- With warmer weather, children might like to walk, ride or scoot (Years 3-6) which prevents large numbers of adults at exit points,
- Staggered dismissals with return. **Prep, Year 1/2 (and older siblings)** will be released at **3:05pm** each day. **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6** will dismiss normally at **3:15pm**. Please ensure you are ready to collect and depart – ensuring we are not breaching gatherings etc. I have been advised that Police will be checking and fining, so please be careful to social distance and head home as soon as you can,
- Children need to return to school with **full uniform**, including a **broad-brimmed school hat** as Term 4 is a SunSmart Term. No hat no play,
- School buses will run as normal. The **Ravenswood bus** will depart earlier at 3:05pm and may arrive at your bus stop earlier than normal. If you are not there before the normal drop off time, Brendan will wait until you arrive. The **Kangaroo Flat bus** will run as normal. Children using this service will wait with their teacher if dismissed at 3:05pm.
- All borrowed **iPads and chargers** must be returned to the **OFFICE** on Monday please – we need to check items back in and ensure you are marked off as having returned them,
- Children need to return to school with **all learning materials** sent home – pencil cases, work books, text books (eg: Handwriting, New Wave Mentals, Sound Waves...),
- All children must bring a **drink bottle** each day, as we are not allowed to have drinking fountains. All bubblers have been changed to taps where children fill up their drink bottle,
- The **canteen** reopens Wednesday – ensure you place orders and pay online or call the Office (no cash) if using this service,
- **OSHC** commences again on Monday morning – all bookings for Before and After School Care need to be made through Janet Dean. Ring our Office or email Janet.Dean@education.vic.gov.au to book your Term 4 needs. Remember, Term 3 bookings do not carry over,
- The **Office** is open, but the foyer doors may be locked. If you find the doors are locked, please just knock and wait. We'll be right with you 😊 When inside the foyer, please follow social distancing dots... and only enter if there are less than two families in the area. If coming to the office and you find it unattended momentarily, please just ring the school number to get someone to let you in.

As stated before the holidays, we will have 3 main areas of focus for Term 4. These are:

1. The wellbeing of your child – due to this, we will be doing lots of work on mindfulness, resilience, feelings, friendships, social skills, revisiting our values and expectations matrix etc,
2. The transition of your child – preparing your Year 6 child to attend Secondary, prepping our Prep – Year 5's for their next step up and welcoming our new 2021 Prep (kinder) children into the school,
3. Learning excellence – most children have continued to make great learning growth, others have stayed static and some may have fallen behind. Due to this, we will focus on the basics in Term 4 – English, Maths, Physical Education and Social Skills/Wellbeing.

This year has been like no other. With that in mind, Term 4 at Big Hill PS will also be like no other. We will be trying to have settled routines, few interruptions, less big events etc, all to ensure we can help children back into their learning routine and ensure their fundamental skills are back on track.

By now, you will know that our camps and excursions have fallen by the wayside, and even if we could run them, we just can't squash all of those programs into one term and expect all families to be able to pay for them all at once – particularly since so many of our families have been affected financially by COVID-19.

We will do special things, celebrate the successes of our students and see the year out with some fanfare (hopefully). We are excited by the return of our students and look forward to seeing them all on Monday.

Again – my appreciation to each and every one of you for your hard work at home, ensuring your child/ren didn't fall behind. It was tough, but the great majority of you persevered and your child/ren are the beneficiaries of this dedication. Here's to a successful and complete Term 4!

Thank you!

Matt Pearce
Principal