



THE UPDATE

A school that values Community, Confidence, Ambition and Respect.

Term 4, Week 4 dates

**There are a number of events that we are looking to reschedule. Please ensure you check Compass regularly for updates.*

Monday:

- School Council 6:30pm online

Tuesday:

-

Wednesday:

- Mango orders due in

Thursday:

-

Friday:

-

See last page for upcoming dates

Phone: 9437 1917
Address: 1570 Main Road, Research, Victoria, 3095
Email: research.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Website: www.researchps.vic.edu.au
Compass: <https://researchps-vic.compass.education/>
Social: www.facebook.com/researchps
The Update: Published fortnightly

Principal's Passage

Mr Patrick Walsh

School Return to Face-To-Face Learning

It was so great seeing so many of our students back at school engaged in face-to-face learning this week. To our 3/4K students—your turn is on Tuesday 26th October. As of the time of writing, our Return to School Model remains as per the below image. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as things change very quickly.

Mon 18 th Oct	Tues 19 th Oct	Wed 20 th Oct	Thu 21 st Oct	Fri 22 nd Oct
Prep / 1s	Prep / 1s	Prep / 1s	20	20 4/50 5/6W
Mon 25 th Oct	Tues 26 th Oct	Wed 27 th Oct	Thu 28 th Oct	Fri 29 th Oct
Prep / 1s	Prep / 1s 3/4K	Prep / 1s 3/4K	20 4/50 5/6W	20 4/50 5/6W
Mon 1 st Nov	Tues 2 nd Nov	Wed 3 rd Nov	Thu 4 th Nov	Fri 5 th Nov
Curriculum Day No School or Onsite Supervision	Melbourne Cup Holiday No School or Onsite Supervision	Prep / 1s 3/4K	20 4/50 5/6W	All students attend full time.



Planning for 2022

Please ensure your Prep 2022 enrolment form is handed in soon as we are planning for next year.

Also, if you are considering alternative school arrangements or moving on in 2022 (except for our current Year 6's) please inform the school office as soon as possible.

Principal's Passage (continued)

Return to School (cont.)

Our recent experience with Covid has given us an insight into how this will stay with us for a while. In an effort to have the school remain open for as many students as possible, for as long as possible, we have had to make some changes to how we operate. I do not have an end date for these changes as what is correct today may well be wrong tomorrow. We will be limiting, as much as possible, mixing of classes indoors, as well as having designated junior play areas and senior play areas. We know that after such an extended period of time away from each other, this may seem harsh. However, if we have further cases, the Tier 1 contacts (this could include students) that are not double vaccinated will be required to isolate at home for 14 days, potentially affecting your ability to go to work. On behalf of the staff, we ask that you continue to work with us regarding this so that we can minimise any potential disruptions over the coming weeks.

Talking to colleagues in the north and west of Melbourne about their recent experiences, and we desperately hope that we avoid this, but it is possible that we will be affected by a covid exposure again. The rules regarding Tier 1 and Tier 2 continue to change—since Saturday 16th October, there have been at least 3 changes to how these are classified. What I was advised as a Tier 2 contact (have a test and isolate until a negative test result) will, in most cases, not be required as per DHHS guidelines from 11:59pm Thursday 21st October.

A government media release from Monday 18th October <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/safe-and-sensible-isolation-changes-we-hit-70-cent> explains the new rules:

On the advice of the Chief Health Officer, from 11.59pm Thursday 21 October, non-household primary close contacts (PCCs) who are fully vaccinated will only need to quarantine for 7 days.

This change will also apply to industry, where all workplace primary close contacts will be required to isolate for 7 days if they are fully vaccinated. Household and unvaccinated PCCs will still be required to isolate for 14 days.

PCCs required to isolate for 7 days will need to return negative test results on both day 1 and day 6 of their quarantine.



Principal's Passage (continued)

Face Masks For Years 3-6

The following information has already been communicated to the parents of children in Years 3-6, but I am providing this to you so that everyone is aware. It is compulsory for students in Years 3-6 to wear these indoors, they may remove these when outside.

If your child has a medical condition (not a physical or mental disability) that will prevent them from wearing a mask, we ask that this is put in writing to the school and supported by a letter from your GP or appropriate specialist.

In my discussions with DHHS over the past week, when trying to classify Tier 1 and Tier 2 contact, one person was classified as Tier 2 due to their wearing a face mask. With the new rules on the previous page, face mask use could be the difference between your child being at school the following day, or in isolation at home for 7 or 14 days.

Friday 15 October 2021

Face masks in primary school and OSHC arrangements

Dear colleagues

To support the staged return of schools to onsite learning under [the Roadmap](#), the Victorian Chief Health Officer has announced new directions in relation to mask wearing for primary school students.

These new changes will come into effect from 18 October 2021 in regional and metropolitan primary schools.

- Face masks will now be mandatory for all school students in Grade 3 and above when indoors including at Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) programs unless a lawful exception applies. Face masks can be removed while outdoors at primary schools.
- Students in secondary school must continue to wear face masks from the first day they return to onsite learning.
- Face masks are strongly recommended for Prep to Grade 2 students.
- For composite classes that include students in and above Grade 3 and below Grade 3, those below Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear masks.
- For students with a disability, parents and carers should speak to the child's doctor or regular health professional and with their school about the best methods to encourage mask wearing. Students and parents can also contact the [Disability Liaison Officer program](#) for more information.
- Students with a medical condition that prevents mask use will not be required to wear a mask.
- Face masks are required for students in Grade 3 to Grade 6 unless an exception applies. Exceptions include students with a physical or mental disability where their disability means it would not be suitable. Parent/carers of a student/s who meet the criteria for an exception must provide their approval in writing for their child/ren to not wear a mask to the school.

Principal's Passage (continued)

COVID-19 Vaccinations – Visitors and Volunteers Working on School Sites

The Department of Education and Training has provided a school policy that clearly outlines the required process for schools to collect and record vaccination information for visitors and volunteers (including parent volunteers) working on school sites, in accordance with the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination directions issued by the Victorian Chief Health Officer. You can access this policy here: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/covid-19-vaccinations-visitors-volunteers/policy>.

A data collection statement can be found here <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/PAL/data-collection-statement-contractors-and-volunteers.docx> that outlines how the Department of Education and Training (Department) will handle your vaccination status information that you provide to us. Before sending anything to us, I strongly encourage you to read the policy and the data collection statement.

There is currently no indication of when parents will be allowed to volunteer at schools again. Therefore, we do not require anything to be sent to us yet. For those of you who would like to share this information with us, we will let you know when to do this.

COVID-19 Vaccination Directions For Education Workers

*Below is available from <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/covid-19-mandatory-vaccination-directions-no-5-pdf>

The Victorian Chief Health Officer has issued directions for required vaccinations for education workers. These directions are specific to education workers and supersede those for other authorised workers.

An education worker is:

- *any person who is employed by an education operator to work in an education facility (including teachers, early childhood educators and educational support staff);*
- *person contracted to work at an education facility and who will or may be in close proximity to children, students or staff, whether or not engaged by the education operator including casual relief teachers, Breakfast Club suppliers, IT personnel, NDIS providers and auditors (but does not include delivery personnel);*
- *staff of the Department of Education and Training who attend an education facility (such as allied health personnel or Authorised Officers);*
- *staff of any other entity who attends an education facility;*
- ***volunteers that attend an education facility and that work in close proximity to children, students or staff (including parent helpers); and***
- *students on placements at an education facility.*

All education workers are required:

- *by 18 October to have had a first dose of the vaccine or produce evidence of a booking to receive a vaccine by 25 October 2021; and*
- *by 29 November 2021 to be fully vaccinated unless a medical exemption applies, and to show evidence of their vaccination status.*



Research Primary School — The Update

Community, Confidence, Ambition and Respect.

Principal's Passage (continued)

Code Red Weather Days

This is a yearly reminder to let you know that Research Primary School is in a Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR) zone. This means that if a Code Red Day (extreme weather conditions) is forecasted by the Bureau of Meteorology, we will close for the day. Normally, this information will be communicated to us at least one day in advance. Code Red Days can be called at any time but are more likely to occur in our area late December through to February.

It is really important that we have your most up to date information in Compass – can I please ask that you check this as soon as possible.

Now is also a great time to think about your own plans for a fire emergency. With the spring rains and a bit of sunshine, there is a huge amount of undergrowth this year that will dry out in the coming months.

You can find out lots of information on the Nillumbik government website <https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Residents/Fire-flood-and-emergencies/Fire-and-heat/Fire-Danger-Ratings> and on the CFA website <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>

2022 Grade Placement Considerations

Once again, we are at the time of year where teachers are beginning to consider class composition for 2022. At this stage we are asking parents to request **in writing** if they would like to inform the school of any special circumstances around student combinations or any other concerns. Given our small numbers, there is unfortunately not a lot of flexibility in our classes, however, we always try our very best to accommodate your suggestions.

Please note, that parents are unable to make suggestions about specific teaching staff, as teacher year levels are a school based decision which is affected by many different factors. We will endeavour, however, to inform you as early as possible which year levels our teachers have been allocated to.

All requests must be **in writing**, and be emailed to the school email address research.ps@education.vic.gov.au by the end of **Friday 22nd October**, as changes will not be able to occur after that date. Thank you for your understanding.

While I have this in the side bar to the left, I will highlight it here, if your child/ren will not be at Research Primary School in 2022, can you please contact us as soon as possible.

Principal's Passage (continued)

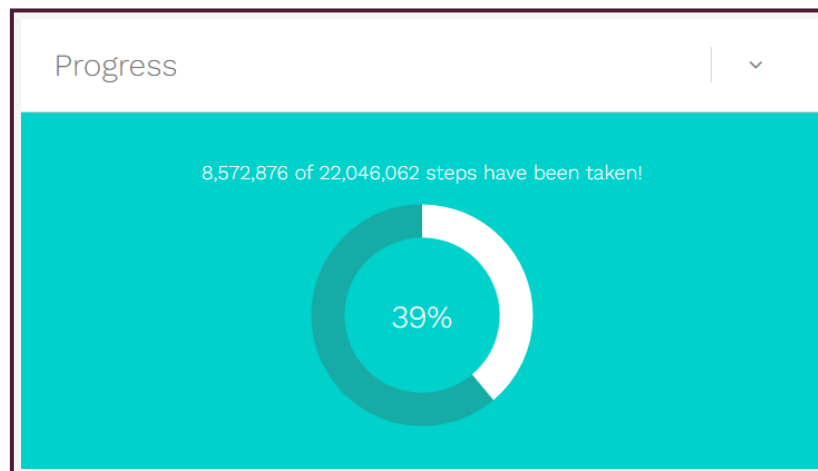
Melbourne Cup Weekend

On Monday 1st November, we have a School Council approved Curriculum Day—there will be no school, onsite supervision or OSHClub on this day. Tuesday 2nd November is the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.

Spring Into Spring Physical Activity Challenge

Have you joined our physical activity challenge yet? The members of the group have so far walked from Brisbane, past Darwin and into Western Australia (we can only dream of being in WA in person at the moment). The group, which includes families and individuals has taken a collective 8.5 million steps of just over 22 million required to make it back to Brisbane.

To join, go to www.worldwalking.org and register, and then search for 'Spring into Spring Research PS' or you can find their app in either of the app stores.





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School Projects

We have had a number of projects around the school that have been stop start—some due to restrictions, others due to requirements of the building project defects liability period, and contractor responsibilities. We finally had the grass mown on the bottom oval on Tuesday. This company has been rebooked to come back on Wednesday 27th October to finish of some of the bigger jobs e.g. mowing the hill at the back of the school going to Lindon Strike Court, whipper snipping the hill between the senior building and the lower carpark, as well as a lot of dead branch removal.

We are desperately in need of replacing our basketball backboards. The current boards are so old that we cannot just purchase new ones and then bolt them on. We asked for a quote to replace the boards and poles to be OHS compliant, this has been quoted at approximately \$30,000. This is money we do not have. The top courts get heavy use after hours so we can't just replace with a bit of marine plywood.

The line marking on the basketball courts was booked to be done much earlier in the year. This was then cancelled due to restrictions. The company has since been sold and the new owners have re-quoted for us at almost double the cost. We are following this up at the moment.

We also have a number of other projects that require to be done.

- The front stage area near the flag poles needs boards replaced
- The goal posts need to be installed (we have had some very generous offers from parents to pay for this which we really appreciate—we just can't get anyone to commit to do)
- Pavers/walk ways through some of the new garden beds to help protect the plants
- Weeding/dead branch removal (particularly next to our neighbours fence line near the gym where over many years dead branches have been stacked)

We have had some other generous offers from parents with businesses to do some work for free. We really appreciate this, and in some cases this is fine. However, in many cases, we will require a written quote that will need to be submitted to School Council for approval before commencing work. We need to ensure that there is a transparent process and that there are no conflicts of interest. As I write this, I realise that this may seem like a tedious process, however, we would be using public education money or funds raised by the Parents and Friends Community. A level of oversight is required.

Have a great weekend!

Patrick

Upcoming dates: **(Covid restrictions permitting)*

October	
Monday 25th	School Council Meeting 6:30pm Online
Wednesday 27th	Mango orders due
November	
Monday 1st	Curriculum Day – no students at school
Tuesday 2nd	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Thursday 4th	Years 5 & 6 Health and Human Development—Parent Session
Tuesday 9th	2022 Prep Information evening 6:30pm (enrolled parents only)
Thursday 11th	Remembrance Day Whole School Author Visit (virtual)
Friday 12th	Years 5 & 6 Health and Human Development Session 1
Friday 19th	Years 5 & 6 Health and Human Development Session 2
Friday 26th	Years 5 & 6 Health and Human Development Session 3
Monday 22nd	School Council Meeting 6:30pm
December	
Thursday 9th	Year 6 Graduation
Friday 17th	Term 4 ends 1:30pm
January 2022	
Friday 28th	Teachers' first day Book Bags to be collected (TBC)



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PFC Mangoes

We are pleased to confirm that Research Primary will once again be offering families the opportunity to purchase mangoes in 2021 as part of the Mango Fundraiser with each tray sold raising money for our school. The Mango Fundraiser pick and pack trays of fresh delicious Bowen Special (Kensington Pride) mangoes and deliver them directly to us on a date early - mid December (dependent on harvest date).

This year the Covid-safe ordering process is even easier with **orders to be exclusively placed online via Try booking** (50c booking fee applies) - please see the link below.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BURBE>

Please note tray sizes will look a little different to previous years - the Mango Fundraiser have advised that due to an unprecedented crop shortage, trays will be smaller at 4.5kg but will be available to purchase at the lesser cost of \$22 which still represents great value for money.

**Orders need to be placed directly via Try Booking by no later than
Wednesday 27th October.**



If you have any questions, please contact the school 03 9437 1917 /
research.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Spring Into Spring Update

As the weather fines up I happy to provide an update on our progress in the walking challenge. As a school community we kicked off our challenge to walk around Australia to shake off those lockdown cobwebs. It is still not too late to register!!!

Register to walk

It's free

Go to: worldwalking.org

Create a login: it's free

Edit your profile: we suggest you walk as a family so all steps count

Search for: Spring into spring Research PS and join

Thank you to the families that have been getting active over the school holidays.

We have walked over 6 million steps to date. We have reached Arnhem Land with Darwin the next stop after our departure from Brisbane on 1st September.

Keep up the good work.

Family board

1st: Vasies

2nd: Hayes

3rd: Saad

4th: Temple

5th: Foxes

Community News

Runforthefiries.com

- Due to COVID - Run for the Firies is a VIRTUAL event for 2021
- Simply register at: [Runforthefiries.com](https://www.runforthefiries.com)
- Event details and terms & conditions are at: [Runforthefiries.com](https://www.runforthefiries.com)
- Only \$25 pp
- Walk Run Jog or Stroll
- ANYTIME and ANYWHERE – Details at: [Runforthefiries.com](https://www.runforthefiries.com)
- During OCTOBER 2021
- Medals – will be posted
- With sincere heartfelt thanks to our sponsors.
- Supporting those who support us
- PLEASE SHARE TO YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, GROUPS AND CLUBS



#PANTHERFAMILY

JOIN THE ELTHAM JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB

The Eltham Cricket Club are on the lookout for new players to join our junior program.

We are after players for our Under 16, 14, 12 and 10s.

We are also looking to continue to grow our Woolworths Blast program. (5-7 & 8-10 y/o's)

Discounts will be on offer for any child that plays football for Eltham.

If your child is looking for an awesome time, we would love to hear from you!






CONTACT

Junior Coordinator:
Seb Oakley 0425 744 858

Club President:
James Pearsell 0417 396 401

www.elthamcricketclub.com.au
[@elthampantherscricketclub](https://www.facebook.com/elthampantherscricketclub)








Community News



Come and Try T-Ball (ages 5-9 years)

Wednesday 27 October 5:30pm-7pm

Glenauburn Park, Lower Plenty

Register at join.juniorbaseball.com.au



Join Us!

Come and Try Baseball (ages 8-16)

Wednesday 27 October, 5:30-7pm

Glenauburn Park, Lower Plenty

Register at join.juniorbaseball.com.au

