



25th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year. I trust that you have had an opportunity over the summer school holidays to have a break, spend some quality time with family and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The school staff have been busy preparing for the new school year and we are excited to start with the students on Thursday 27th January. I wanted to take this opportunity to update and remind parents of a number of key issues before students return.

As we start the new school term a number of restrictions related to COVID safety protocols are in place for schools, and it is imperative that all members of our school community follow them.

ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL SITE

Prep, Kinder and Year 7 parents are permitted to come onto the school site to assist their children with the transition to school at the start of the year. Kinder and Year 7 parents must sign in and out at the office and must proceed directly to their child's classroom and stay only as long as required.

All other parents are only permitted on the school grounds for appointments and must sign in and out at the office.

No student, staff member, parent or visitor is permitted to be at school with COVID-like symptoms. Those who present sick will be sent home and must supply a negative COVID test before returning to school.

PARENT PICK UP AND DROP OFF / BUSES

Students must access the school each morning via the northern driveway on Derribong Drive.

Afternoon pick up for children not catching buses is on Derribong Drive. Please practise social distancing and do not block the pathways.

Secondary students catching the bus must wear a mask when travelling to and from school.

Prep parents may drive into the school car park and park in dedicated Prep parking.

MASKS

Secondary students, staff and visitors are required to wear a mask indoors at school. Students in Years 3-6 are encouraged to wear a mask.

CLEANING / RISK ASSESSMENT

The school continues to provide thorough cleaning and hand hygiene stations around the school. Desks and high touch surfaces are wiped down after each use. For activities with greater risk, the school has implemented a range of COVID-safe practices or restrictions which will allow these activities to proceed.

RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS

Staff and students will be screened for COVID twice a week using Rapid Antigen Tests.

The tests have been supplied by the NSW Government and a week's supply will be sent home with each child every Friday for the next 4-5 weeks. These tests are for the designated students, not other family members.

Rapid Antigen Tests should be completed at home on a Sunday evening/Monday morning and Wednesday evening/Thursday morning.

Those who test negative can return to school. Those who test positive must notify the school immediately, register the positive test result with NSW Health and isolate for 7 days. After 7 days, if not symptomatic students may return to school.

Where possible we encourage students to take a Rapid Antigen Test before coming to school on Thursday 27th January. Those who test positive must not attend school and should notify the school office.

We anticipate that these restrictions will continue to change throughout the year. Please stay up to date with all school communication on this matter. COVID-19 communication will be sent through SEQTA and can also be found on the school website.

DEDICATION SERVICE

Traditionally, ICS commences the school year with a Dedication Service and parent morning tea. In 2022, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will be live-streaming the service to allow parents to participate without coming on site. The service will start at 9am.

The link to the Dedication Service will be shared with school families prior to Thursday 27th January via SEQTA.

ENGAGE EVENING

Our first Engage Evening for K-12 parents is on Tuesday 8th February. This will include opportunities to meet teachers and participate in some parent workshops. Details will be sent to parents in the coming days. Places are limited due to COVID-19 restrictions so you will need to book your space quickly.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The school swimming carnival will be held on Tuesday 1st February at Western Suburbs Pool (Unanderra). The carnival is for Years 3-12 and for competitive Year 2 swimmers. Parents are welcome but must stay in the designated spectator area as part of our COVID Safety plan.

NEW STUDENTS

In 2022 we are pleased to welcome a number of new students across the school. We look forward to partnering with their parents in each student's education. On Thursday 27th January, all new students in Years 1-12 should report to the school office at 8:30am. Kindergarten and Prep students should proceed directly to their classrooms with their parents.

UNIFORM


All items of uniform must be the correct ICS uniform and no uniform items bearing the old school logo will be permitted this year. Students are to wear the correct school uniform each day and are permitted to wear sports uniform on their sports day. Students are expected to change for PE.

All students must have an ICS hat. Students with long hair must have it tied back for safety and hygiene reasons.

NEW STAFF

This year we welcome several new staff members to ICS. We look forward to their contributions to the school community and we will introduce them to you at the Dedication Service and through our social media and news platforms over the coming weeks.

Thank you for your partnership in 2022. May God be glorified through our school community this year as we seek to serve Christ.



Simon Lainson
Principal