



Welcome To 2021

From the Principal's Desk

WELCOME TO 2021!

What an exciting year we have ahead of us! It has been an exceptionally positive start to the year with greater than expected enrolments which has resulted in an additional class, a dynamic staff and an enthusiastic school community who are all determined to ensure every child at Alexandra Hills State School receives the best possible educational experience. All the students have started the school year with enthusiasm and excitement. Already, teachers have them working at full capacity as they strive to implement a very full and engaging curriculum. Our Prep students and Year One students have done particularly well and are taking great pride in their reading, writing and math work that they have completed. It certainly is an exciting time in the classrooms!

PARENTS IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

For the first week of this Term, we welcomed parents back into our school grounds (even provided a coffee van for Day One!). As Principal, I saw it as vitally important for parents to assist their child to settle into a new classroom and meet their child's teacher.

From this week, we are going to limit parents' interactions in the school grounds and are going to reinstate students being dropped off and collected at the front gate.

This will ensure all members of our school community are safe and allows the school to ensure any contact with the students is managed.

As was the case last year, students are to be

dropped off at the front gate which will be managed by staff. Any parent who is wanting to come into the school grounds, must do so through the Front Office.

Parents who have children in Prep are still able to drop their child off to the Prep classroom tomorrow.

B.E.S.T. PROGRAM

2021 will see the most exciting curriculum initiative to be implemented at Alexandra Hills State School. After extensive research, consultation and planning, Alexandra Hills State School has developed the Beginning Engineering, Science and Technology (B.E.S.T.) Program. 2021 will see Alexandra Hills State School contribute significant funding, resources and focused teaching into delivering our B.E.S.T. Program that will help students succeed in a world of technological change. As future innovators, educators, researchers and leaders, it is important that Alexandra Hills State School students develop the skills required to compete on a global scale. Fully aligned to the Australian Curriculum, the B.E.S.T Program provides learning experiences that will be irresistibly engaging for all our students (P-6) and teachers across all learning areas. Our aim is to prepare our students to be future-ready for the 21st Century by becoming innovative and confident users of technologies through vehicles of communication, collaboration, critical thinking, curating and creating, all whilst fostering higher-order thinking skills and real-life problem solving.

TARGETED LITERACY PROGRAM

Our focus is on oral literacy and a targeted literacy program. 2021 will see an uninterrupted 2 hour literacy block every day; we continue to lead the region in innovative approaches to building literacy competencies.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

This year welcome back the dynamic Jess Steffen who will continue to provide tutorage to our Year 4-6 band members. In 2021, we are also extending the instrumental music program. For what is a first in the Redlands State Schools, instrumental music will be compulsory for students in Year 3. This is a very exciting initiative which provides the opportunity for all students in Year 3 to try an instrument under the guidance of Jess Steffen, hopefully uncovering some very talented musicians.

UNIFORMS

We are all very excited about the implementation of the Uniform Policy for Alexandra Hills State School. At the moment, the school staff are enforcing the dress code for our students unanimously supported by the school community last year. These expectations promote the good image of our school. If your child receives a Uniform Violation Slip, please take the time to read it and act on the areas identified. If you have any issues that prevent your child wearing the full school uniform or have questions or concerns regarding the Alexandra Hills State School Uniform Policy, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

Sports Uniform can be worn on Tuesdays to coincide with PE lessons. This means students can wear their Sports Shirts along with their sports shoes.

The Senior Shirt can be worn by the year 6 students on Monday and Friday.

STUDENT DROP-OFF TIMES

Please ensure that your child is not at school prior to 8:00. In the first week there seemed to be some confusion and we had students arriving at school at 7:30. We want to ensure students are safe when they enter the school grounds. There is no teacher supervision at school until 8:15. Up until 8:00, our Schools Officer is mowing around school buildings (which cannot be done during learning time),

with students on the school grounds, it limits what key tasks can be done. We need parents to work with us to ensure all students are safe at all times.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

It is vital that students come to school and miss as little schooling as possible. Our aim for 2021 is for school attendance to average 93% of students at school every day. For us to achieve this goal, parents need to work with the school. The Alexandra Hills State School Attendance Policy outlines key responsibilities for the students, parents/caregivers and the school. Please read the document (a digital copy is on our website, if you would like a paper copy, please ask at the front Office), if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

NEW PLAYGROUND

The new Prep Playground installation has been delayed. Due to the impact of COVID 19, there will be a delay in the construction of our newest play area. The design has been approved and we are looking at the playground to be completed sometime during Term One. We had hoped to have it ready for Day One, however in the current climate, we need to be flexible and work with the situation in front of us. Over the next few weeks, gardens and additional areas will be completed in readiness for the start date of the playground construction.

NEW STAFF

We are delighted to welcome new staff members to the Alexandra Hills State School Community. In the classroom, Alyssa Brewer will be teaching Prep Purple and Tamara Bailey will be teaching will be teaching 4 Lime with Katrina Anderson. We also welcome Danielle Munday and Gabriella Liberatore who will be employed as Teacher Aides to assist with focused curriculum initiatives. We have a dynamic and dedicated staff at Alexandra Hills State School and know that these new staff members will make a positive and valued contribution to the Alexandra Hills State School Community.

I would like to personally welcome all of our returning families and our new enrolments, I can confidently say that you will not get a better education anywhere else, and we are delighted to have you as part of our school community

Ready 'Prep' Go!

Our gorgeous preppies have only been at school for a few days but they are already settling in so well.

We have been really busy learning classroom routines, making new friends, playing games and creating lots of masterpieces!

The Prep teachers, Mrs Griffiths and Miss Brewer, have been so impressed at how well the prep students have transitioned to school life - they are all delightfully confident little people with very bright futures!

We are so proud of our prep students already, what a wonderful year ahead of us!

Arriving At School To Early

A reminder to Parents/Carers that students are not permitted in school grounds before 8am as there is no supervision prior to this time. It has been reported to the office that there are children arriving and playing unsupervised as early as 6:30am. Students arriving before 8am will be sent to Mighty Oaks Before School Care and will be charged their casual rate.

To ensure every child's safety please do not leave them unattended.

Dogs On School Grounds

We have noticed recently that we are having a few families bring their dogs into school grounds, particularly before and after school while either dropping off or picking up their child. Dogs are not permitted in any of the school grounds unless prior written approval is given by the principal.

Guide dogs, Assistance dogs, Therapy and Companion dogs are permitted.

When To Send My Child To School If They Are Sick?

At one point or another, every parent of a school aged child has had to face the tough choice of whether or not to send a sick child to school.

It can be tough to know, especially with younger school-age children, whether or not you really are dealing with a sick child. Are they angling for time at home and the requisite perks of being sick, such as extra cuddles and maybe even a DVD? Are they worried about something at school? Or are they coming down with an infection?

It's a major issue, especially for working mums and dads. Here's a quick guide to when you should keep your sick child at home and when you can take a chance that they'll feel better once they get on with the school day.

When to Keep a Sick Child at Home

Fever: This is one symptom that automatically rules out school, no questions. (Anywhere from 37.7 degrees or higher is the usual guideline used by most schools.) Your sick child should be fever-free without medication for at least 24 hours before you send him back to school.

Diarrhea: This could be a sign of a viral infection, so it's best to keep your child at home. It's also important to keep rehydrating them with an oral rehydrating solution when they have diarrhea, and the best way to do that is by keeping them at home.

Vomiting: Aside from the fact that your child won't be comfortable, they could vomit again. Keep them home until they have gone 24 hours without throwing up although some parents and doctors say it's fine to send a child to school if they haven't vomited since the night before.

Cough: This depends on how severe the cough is. Coughs can spread the infection to other students. A serious cough can also keep a child from getting a good night's rest, which means they'll be too tired for school in the morning. As a general rule, if your child has a serious cough, particularly if it's accompanied by breathing troubles, call your doctor and keep them at home. But if it's just a mild cough and they have no other symptoms, they can probably go to school.

Rashes: Skin rashes could be a sign of a contagious infection, such as impetigo. You should have a rash evaluated by a doctor before sending your child to school.

Pinkeye (conjunctivitis): This infection can quickly and easily spread from one child to another, as many parents of grade-school age children already know all too well. Keep your child home until the doctor says he is no longer contagious.

When to Send Your Child to School

Stomachache: This one can be tough to call. If they don't have diarrhea and isn't [constipated](#), tummy trouble could be caused by any number of things from anxiety to food poisoning. If the stomach pains seem minor and they have no other symptoms, send them to school. Later, you can talk to them about any emotional issues that may be on their mind.

Ear infection: As with coughs, you should evaluate all of their symptoms before making the call. If they have a mild ear pain, they'll likely be fine; but if they are clearly uncomfortable, they will have trouble concentrating in class anyway and should be kept at home. And if there are any other accompanying symptoms such as a fever, it's a definite sick day.

Runny nose: Let's be realistic: If you keep your child home every time they have the sniffles, they'd miss a lot of school. Use your judgment. If they have a runny nose but seems otherwise fine, then it's probably okay for them to go to school.

The bottom line: Trust your instincts. If your child seems lethargic and just not themselves (if they are not interested in playing, that is often a big clue), keep them home and monitor them for any signs of illness.

(As from the website:

<https://www.verywellfamily.com/when-is-a-child-too-sick-for-school-620523>)