



Teamwork • Respect • Honesty • Care

## Goornong Primary School

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Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

Dear Parents,

### RE: NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR FACE MASKS FOR STUDENTS

To support the Return to School Plan, the Victorian Chief Health Officer has announced new rules around mask wearing to keep everyone at school safe.

One of the most important and effective things we can do to help keep students in the classroom is to wear masks to help minimise COVID-19 transmission risk. When worn properly, masks can play an important role in reducing the transmission risks of Covid-19 that could happen from common activities in school.

From Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October, face masks will be required for all school students in Grade 3 and above when indoors, unless a lawful exception applies. The students can remove their mask while outdoors, or when eating and drinking.

Face masks are also strongly recommended for Prep to Year 2 students. However, they are not mandatory for these students.

Students are welcome to bring their own mask from home. Alternatively, the school will supply students who don't have a mask with a disposable one to wear.

For students with a disability, parents and carers should speak to their child's doctor or regular health professional about the best methods to encourage mask wearing. Students and parents can also contact the [Disability Liaison Officer program](#) for more information.

Face masks are required for students in Grades 3/4/5/6 unless an exception applies. Exceptions include students with a physical or mental disability where their disability means it would not be suitable. Students with a medical condition or disability that make wearing a face covering unsuitable are not required to wear a mask. Parents of a student who meet the criteria for an exception must provide their approval in writing for their child to not wear a mask to the school.

At Goornong PS, we will endeavour to spend extra time learning outside to help support students.

We can work together to support students by having conversations around the importance of masks in preventing COVID-19 transmission and remind them that it's only for a few days a week.

We have seen through remote learning that friendships are important. We can work together to remind students that wearing masks means they can see their friends and be at school together more often. We also protect our friends and keep them safe.

We encourage you to discuss wearing masks with your children to keep kids in the classroom and minimise COVID-19 transmission risk. The Raising Children Network has resources that can help you with [having conversations with your children about wearing masks](#).

These new changes to wearing masks will come into effect from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in regional and metropolitan schools.

Thank you for your ongoing support in the implementation of these important steps that enable us to return to onsite learning. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Cox

Principal