



Success

Pride

Self-esteem

Newsletter Edition 1

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2nd February 2021

## THE PRINCIPAL

*Julie Kennedy*

### WELCOME BACK

A very warm welcome to the new school year, we hope you enjoyed a happy, relaxing holiday break. We have been delighted to have our students return this week, it is so good to see their happy, smiling faces each morning. We have got off to a very smooth start and we are hoping things stay this way. A big thank you to the families who are doing the Rapid Antigen Testing as this will help to identify and isolate cases early. The more families who do the testing, the more likely we are to pick up cases and reduce transmission. We are very much hoping for a 'normal' happy, learning filled year.

We extend a warm welcome to our Prep students who commence school on Friday and all the new students at other year levels. To everyone new to Strathaird, we hope you will be very happy being part of our wonderful school community.

*This is a special edition newsletter and regular newsletters will be sent out fortnightly from next Wednesday.*

### STAFF APPOINTMENTS

This year we are pleased to welcome new and returning staff. Our new staff members are: Taylah Weeding (Prep), Katrin Attalia (Year 1 for Term 1), Sam Hodges (Year 1), Chloe Mills (Year 2), Sarah Collins (Year 3), Jenn Vandoorn (Year 4), Shane Kelly (Year 6) and Amber Brickell (Literacy Intervention). Annabelle Stevenson has returned to join our Literacy Intervention Team; Naomi Smith will teach part-time in Year 6 and Brodie Hearnden is teaching Auslan across the School as well as working in the Sustainability area. We are very excited about what each of these Staff members will contribute to our school during 2022.

I am also delighted to announce David Inturrisi as Acting Assistant Principal. David wears many hats but his main responsibility is Student Wellbeing. It is vitally important to us that our students feel happy and safe at school. If you need any help or support for your family or child, you are able to contact Jo Redi, David or myself at any time but particularly David as his key focus is Student Wellbeing.

### COVID 19 CHILD VACCINATION POP UP CLINIC AT STRATHAIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL

As you would be aware the Australian Technical Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children between the ages of five and 11 years. For parents wishing to have their children vaccinated, vaccines are available at participating GP centres, pharmacies and State Vaccination Centres. In addition to this, some schools are hosting vaccination clinics.

**Strathaird Primary School is hosting a pop up Child Vaccination Clinic.**

**The details are as follows:**

**Date:** Thursday 17 February 3.30 – 7.00 p.m.

**Date:** Friday 18 February 3.30 – 6.00 p.m.

**Location:** School Gym.

**How do I book:** Online bookings or walk up and register at the School Gym at the time.

**Who is running the Clinic:** *Unique Medical, Cranbourne*

### NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING COVID CASES AT SCHOOL

**Parents must notify the school if their child tests positive to COVID or if they are a household contact.**

If we have a COVID positive case onsite, the School Community will be alerted on the day we become aware of the case. You will be notified through the *Sentral for Parents app* so if you don't have this app on your phone, please download it. If you need help, please call in at the Office and they will help you.

This notification will tell you how many cases and what area of the school they were. The purpose of this notification is to alert parents to watch their children closely for symptoms so that cases can be identified early and isolated to stop transmission within the school. In the notification you will receive a short message and an instruction to open the attached PDF. The PDF will show this blue information tile and will detail advice and support. If you need help or support, please don't hesitate to contact us at school.

COVID-19 vaccines  
for ages 5-11

Pop up Child  
Vaccination  
Clinic



blue information tile



## YEAR 6 CAMP

The Year 6 Camp to Wombat Creek, Emerald, will be held from March 16-18 with COVID safe processes in place. It will go ahead unless there is some dramatic change over the coming weeks. Information will be sent out to parents shortly.

## PARENT -TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parents will have the opportunity to speak with their child's teacher by phone on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February between 3:30pm. and 7:30pm, or Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> February between 3:30 and 5:00pm.

Parents need to book Interviews using Sentral. A letter will be sent out on Friday. If you need help booking Interviews, please contact the School Office.

Interviews at this time of the year are designed to give parents an opportunity to inform teachers of any relevant background information which may be of assistance in developing class programs throughout the year. Background information may include your child's strengths and qualities, areas of concern, learning needs, homework expectations and how parents can assist learning.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

***There are four vacancies for School Council which need to be filled. Each is for a period of 2 years.***

The School Council is involved in many aspects of the school including approving policies and monitoring finance. School Council members need to attend eight meetings over the year and most positions are for two years. We encourage parents to please consider nominating, I feel sure you will find it a positive and rewarding way to contribute to the School.

The process and timeline for School Council elections is outlined below. If you have any questions, please contact me at School.

If you would like to read about the role of School Council more information can be found on the following link:

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2022**

All government schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

This year there are ***four Parent Member vacancies (2 year terms)*** on School Council.

- \* The election process will commence with a call for nominations from **Monday 14th February**.
- \* Nomination forms can be obtained from the School Office.
- \* Nominations close and are due to the School Office by **4:00pm on Monday 21st Feb**.
- \* The list of candidates will be posted outside the School Office on **Wednesday 23rd Feb**.
- \* If there are more nominations than vacant positions, a ballot process will take place. Ballot Papers will

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/get-involved-at-school.aspx>





## COVID 19 CHILD VACCINATION POP UP CLINIC AT STRATHAIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Children aged 5-11 years are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Getting vaccinated is the best way you can protect yourself, your family and our school community from further outbreaks and the spread of COVID-19.

Vaccination is not mandatory, but it is highly encouraged, except where your medical practitioner advises you otherwise.

To help keep our school community safe, **Unique Medical PTY LTD** will be hosting a mini COVID-19 vaccination clinic at our school for all students at our school aged 5-11 years.

### When and where

**Date: Thursday 17 February 3.30—7.00 p.m.**

**Date: Friday 18 February 3.30—6.00 p.m.**

**Location: Strathaird Primary School Gym**

### Parent/guardian consent

All students aged 5-11-years-old require the consent of their parent or guardian to be vaccinated. A parent or guardian **must** attend the mini vaccination clinic with your child to provide consent and support your child.

### How to book an appointment

You're welcome to book an appointment with the mini clinic at our school. There will also be walk up appointments.

***FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO BOOK ONLINE, PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING PAGE.***

### What to bring

On the day you should bring the following:

a face mask

a Medicare number, or [Individual Healthcare Identifier number](#) for your child if they have one.

Please note, appointments and vaccinations through the school based mini-vaccination clinic are at **no cost** to you or your family.

Please speak to your doctor if you have any questions about vaccination for your child.

### More information

If you and your child cannot attend the vaccination clinic at the school, you can book and receive your COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination centre, participating GP clinics, pharmacies or community health services.

You can find a Commonwealth vaccination centre or participating GP, pharmacy or community health service through the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#). You can book your appointment online or by calling the vaccine provider nearest to you. To find a state vaccination centre and opening times, visit [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au).

Translated advice about the vaccines is also available at [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au).

For further assistance, contact:

the Department of Education and Training COVID-19 hotline on 1800 338 663.  
the National coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccine helpline: 1800 020 080.

## COVID 19 CHILD VACCINATION POP UP CLINIC AT STRATHAIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL

### How to book online appointment for kids Pfizer vaccination

**Step 1:** Go to Unique medical website: <https://www.uniquemedical.com.au>



**Step 2:** Select  tab

**Step 3:** Scroll down to the end until you find **Strathaird Primary School**



**Step 4:** Choose your preferred appointment time

**Step 5:** Select “Someone else” for who are you booking this appointment for.

**Step 6:** Select “New patient” if you haven’t been to Unique Medical before.

**Step 7:** Select **“Standard consult”** for reason for Strathaird PS

**Please don’t select “COVID-19 Vaccine Dose 1 - Pfizer (5-11 years)” as this would lead you to book appointment at the medical centre not at Strathaird PS**

**Step 7:** It will ask if you have booked with HotDoc before and if you haven’t you need to create an account

Please ensure appointment is saved. You will receive an SMS with confirmation.

If you are having difficulties booking call reception on 03 5923 3006 and inform you are booking vaccination appointment at Strathaird PS.



# COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 5 to 11 years

## A guide for parents, guardians and carers

The Australian Technical Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children between the ages of five and 11 years, the final approval for children to start receiving vaccination.

ATAGI recommends that vaccination in this age group is 2 doses, 8 weeks apart. The interval can be shortened in special circumstances to a minimum of 3 weeks, such as in an outbreak response, prior to the initiation of significant immunosuppression or international travel.

Bookings will open from late December with children set to get vaccinated from 10 January 2022.

COVID-19 vaccines are already being given to children aged 5 to 11 years in the United States (US) and Canada, with programs starting in Europe, Israel and elsewhere.

The [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation](#) (ATAGI) is continuing to review available evidence from clinical trials of the Pfizer vaccine in children and real-world data from the US vaccine rollout in this age group.

Approval is also being sought by Moderna vaccine to join the rollout for this age group.

## What will the vaccine rollout for children look like?

Vaccines are planned to be available through participating general practices, pharmacies, Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations and family-friendly state vaccination centres in Victoria.

Different pathways and supports will be available for children who may have mild anxiety about vaccination or minor behavioural issues, as well as children with developmental disabilities, autism and/or sensory issues. There will also be hospital-based services available for children with more severe needle phobia by referral to the Victorian Specialist Immunisation Service.

## What are the benefits of vaccinating children?

### **Benefit: Offering direct protection against COVID-19 infection and severe disease**

- COVID-19 vaccination reduces the risk of infection and severity of illness.
- Some children with pre-existing medical conditions, such as obesity, down syndrome or cerebral palsy, are at greater risk from COVID-19.
- Severe disease is uncommon but does occur in children, with less than two per cent of symptomatic children needing admission to hospital for treatment, usually for oxygen or fluids.
- In Australia, we have high vaccine coverage in adults and so COVID-19 infection has become more common in unvaccinated children and adolescents. The risk of severe disease and needing to go to hospital or dying is still much higher in older adults who are unvaccinated.
- Some children can also develop chronic symptoms, more than one or two months after COVID infection, called Long-COVID. This complication is not well understood but seems to be relatively rare, with most studies showing symptoms rarely occur beyond three months. Research is required to understand Long COVID better.



- There is also a rare syndrome after COVID-19 infection that is delayed and causes severe disease in children and can affect several organs and systems in the body, called Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children (MIS-C).

**Benefit: Reducing transmission within the household, community and education settings**

- Children, including young children, can transmit COVID-19. Vaccination is expected to reduce the risk of transmission to other children and older age groups, including family members who may be at higher risk such as grandparents.

**Benefit: Minimising the need for education setting closures, travel rescheduling and subsequent negative indirect impacts**

- The indirect or secondary benefit of reducing transmission and cases in early childhood education and care services and schools is that education settings are more likely to stay open, and children can have more face-to-face learning, time playing, engaging in different sporting activities and socialising with their friends.
- Children may also need to be vaccinated for international travel so there is a need to ensure timeframes for vaccination are considered in travel departure planning.

## Are there any risks in vaccinating children?

- The Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective to use for children between the ages of 5 and 11. In the Pfizer vaccine clinical trial, there were no vaccine safety concerns and no serious side effects detected.
- All vaccines have side effects, like any other medicine. More serious side effects are very rare.
- Children can experience common and expected side effects after the Pfizer vaccines such as a sore arm, headache and fatigue. These usually only need treatment with paracetamol, and children rarely need to see a doctor for treatment.
- The majority of side effects after the vaccines occur early within the first 6-8 weeks, with no expected long term side effects from the mRNA vaccines. Ongoing, robust vaccine safety surveillance will continue in the community in Australia through AusVaxSafety to constantly monitor for both common and serious side effects.
- There is no scientific evidence that vaccines impact fertility and none of the COVID-19 vaccines used in Australia cause sterilisation/infertility.

**If you have questions about COVID-19 vaccination and your child, please discuss with your doctor or healthcare provider.**

## Resources

- [How to speak to kids about COVID-19 vaccines | Australian Government Department of Health](#)
- [Vaccine clinic finder](#)
- <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/who-can-get-vaccinated>
- [Talking to your child about COVID-19](#)
- [Royal Children's Hospital podcast](#)
- [Social scripts on what to expect when getting a COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [VaxFacts COVID-19 questions asked and answered](#)



# Sentral for Parents App

The **Sentral for Parents** app allows families to:

- ✦ view academic reports
- ✦ explain past and upcoming student absences
- ✦ view calendar events
- ✦ book parent/teacher interviews
- ✦ receive sick bay notifications
- ✦ view school newsletters

as well as receive real-time notifications and messages from the school.

## Instructions for accessing the Sentral for Parent App

1. **Download** the 'Sentral for Parents' app. Depending on your device, visit either the Apple App Store, or the Google Play Store.
2. **Search** for Strathaird Primary School. Tap Next.
3. **Sign in** using your Sentral username (your registered email address) and password (that you created when Registering). Tap Log In.
4. You are now ready to start using the app.

## If you have never registered on Sentral:

1. Click register here to register a new account. It will ask you to create a user name and password. Enter your email address as your username and create your own password. You will receive a verification email which **MUST** be verified in order to continue.
2. Once verified, log back into the app and use the access key provided by the school to link to your child's details. *The access key will be created for you once your child is attending.*

For a quick overview on how to access the Parent Portal, please watch this short video.

<https://vimeo.com/sentraleducation/review/431752138/968dcb15a8>

If you have questions about using the app, or need some extra help then please browse the list of FAQs at

<https://info.sentral.com.au/new-app-getting-started> or contact us for assistance.





## **VISION STATEMENT AND MISSION**

To empower students to strive for personal achievement, embrace challenges and develop the skills and values that enable them to become lifelong learners and engaged responsible citizens in an ever changing global society.

## **OUR VALUES**

We value Wisdom, Respect, Self Esteem and Happiness.

**Wisdom** – Growth through the acquisition of knowledge skills and experiences. It encompasses the qualities of independence, responsibility and goal setting.

**Respect** – The valuing of people’s worth and qualities and treating everyone in the school community in a polite and friendly manner. It encompasses the qualities of friendship, cooperation, courtesy, honesty, trustworthiness, compassion and consideration.

**Self Esteem** – A feeling of self worth and confidence. It encompasses the qualities of confidence, achievement, enthusiasm, patience, and positive attitude.

**Happiness** – Appreciation of life and ability to see the positives in most situations. It encompasses the qualities of fairness, forgiveness, safety, and kindness.

Our school motto is: Success, Pride, Self Esteem, chosen by school council as fitting attributes that reflect our underlying values.

## **HOW WE ENACT OUR VISION STATEMENT AND MISSION**

School Council provide Governance and direction through School Policies, the school’s Strategic Plan and the implementation of that plan through the Annual Implementation Plans.

The philosophy of our curriculum delivery is based on our vision statement and mission. We promote our values across the school and include specific presentations on values through whole school assemblies.

Extra curricula activities during lunch times include: library time, gardening, music/choir, Years 2 sports fun, chess for grades 3, 4 and grade 5 and 6 camps, are all aimed at developing this philosophy.

