

## **COVID Update – Masks**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Masks **are strongly encouraged** for children in years 3-6 when indoors at school. We will have child size surgical masks available for students when they are on site. R-2 students will be provided with a mask if they would like to wear one. It is mandatory for all staff to wear a mask at school unless it's impeding communication when teaching.

The following website has some useful information to support your child for mask wearing at school:

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/coronavirus-covid-19-guide/wearing-face-masks-tips-to-help-children-teenagers>

Here are some simple ideas that may be useful for younger children:

### **Matching Masks**

Have your child put a mask on their favourite toy to encourage your child to wear a matching one.

### **Community Heroes**

Pretend play is important because it gives children a chance to explore, experiment, and even investigate new characters—sparking imagination! In our community there are real heroes who wear all types of masks, helmets, and face shields to help others. Together with your child, brainstorm the different members in your community who wear masks as part of their job. Dress up as these everyday heroes and you can even upcycle boxes to create a scene to match your character. Storytelling combined with imaginative play will empower your child to create endless possibilities.

### **Me Too!**

Children are often inspired to imitate what grown-ups are doing. Try wearing your mask around the house, walking around the neighbourhood, or even playing outdoor games to let your child get used to the idea that masks can be fun and worn at any time. Switch roles and put your child in charge of reminding the family to “Mask Up” before leaving the house. Your child will soon follow your lead as they begin to understand that they too, can be just like you.

Wearing masks at school is just one simple strategy to minimise risk of COVID to students and staff. We appreciate you taking the time to support/encourage the use of masks with your child.

Regards

Lynda

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