



'RETURN TO SCHOOL FACE TO FACE LEARNING' UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to express how proud we were of your children this last week! They returned with huge smiles and big hearts. There was lots of excitement to learn, classes were extremely settled, students were actively engaged in their learning, and the playground was full of magic as the students reconnected with their friends across the school.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank you for respecting our requests to maintain physical distancing during drop off and pick up times. Our staggered approach has been highly successful, and we will maintain this routine for the time being. Please remember these practices are in place to keep you and our teachers healthy and well.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating our teachers and the staff for their dedication and commitment to ensure a smooth and effective transition from 'learning at home' to 'returning to face to face learning at school'. They have remained positive and maintained focus while transforming their teaching platform. I must say they are thrilled to have your children back in the classroom.

Guidelines for schools (reflective of the directions of the NSW Government and the DoE)

- Schools are safe and open for full time face-to-face learning
- School students do not need to follow physical distancing guidelines.
- Adults do need to continue practicing physical distancing guidelines.

All school activities and operations will be in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPCC) and NSW Health guidelines as applicable.

Soap dispensers and hand towels

Within the last week we have installed:

- Automated hand sanitizer dispensers in the wet area of each classroom.
- Paper towel dispensers in the bathrooms
- New soap dispensers in the student's bathrooms

Timely reminder

This week there have been several cubicles' in both the boys and girls bathrooms that have been locked internally by students. Not only is this unsafe, it is extremely unhygienic as this requires a student to crawl under the door to get out. Can you please support the school by discussing this with your child to reinforce the safety and hygiene concerns you and the school have for whoever has been doing this.

Reporting and Parent Teacher Interviews during COVID-19

Where possible your child has been assessed during the 'learning from home' period. This has been followed up with additional face to face assessments this past week and further assessments will take place over the next fortnight.

The Department of Education in conjunction with NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) have set COVID-19 Assessment and Reporting guidelines for schools that outline that:

- You will receive your child's semester 1 report before the end of August (week 6, Term 3).
- Reporting templates may be a simplified version of the report you normally receive.
- Schools are encouraged to discuss your child's progress with you via the phone or online prior to August.

On review of these guidelines, the teachers have committed to writing and distributing reports this term. Our reporting emphasis will be on English and Mathematics as this was our key focus for students as they engaged in their single unit of work during 'learning at home' or being 'supervised at school'.

Parent / teacher interviews will also look a little different this semester. We will be coordinating phone interviews later in the term for those interested. Additional information will be distributed in the coming weeks outlining appointment schedules.

With students only returning to face to face learning this week, we appreciate your patience as work through the logistics of our semester 1 reporting and interview processes.

Playground Equipment

Due to the current DoE guidelines that require the school to wipe down/clean the play equipment after each play session, we have had to close our playground equipment until the guidelines are relaxed. Please be reminded that we have a very comprehensive range of outdoor play equipment and the students are very happy and busy when out on the playground. We appreciate your patience as we follow the guidelines in place.

Home Reading and Homework

The school has recently purchased each student in Kindergarten and Year 1 a licence to access PM readers online. We are hoping to have this software set up for use on Monday, where your child will receive login details and a password. Teachers will assign texts at the appropriate level for your child to practice their reading at home. Please remember that home readers are often a few levels below the level that they are instructed at in the classroom as we do not want your child to experience any frustration with their reading development. Home reading is to practice and reinforce learning with confidence.

Most Year 2 students will access appropriate chapter books matched to their ability. As books are returned, we will follow the same hygiene protocols as we are applying in the library.

Homework for the remainder of this term will consist of either spelling or camera word practice, home reading and Mathletics. If you are looking for additional tasks, please engage in the reading eggs program.

Assemblies

As per DoE COVID-19 guidelines the school is not able to engage students in whole school assemblies. Last week saw the school deliver our first virtual assembly. Now the students have returned to school, teachers will host a mini class-based assembly where they will award students with Assembly Awards each Friday. This week's recipients are:

KO	1L	1S	2L
Zak K	Xavier	Joseph	Nate
David	Kayla	Ella N	Latasha
Matthew	Sherwin	William	Lydia

Congratulations to all students for a wonderful first week back to face to face learning and well done to those students who received awards for their work during week 5.

Road Safety

The P&C worked hard and persevered with the council to have 'NO STOPPING' signs installed on the corner of Lansdowne St and Claremont St to ensure the safety of all students as they arrive and leave the school. We thank them for their work. *We request that all school community members follow these road signs.*

Yours sincerely,

Kylie McKinnon
Principal
29 May 2020