



## Around the Grove

Dear Parents & Carers,

We would like to congratulate your children on a fabulous three weeks as they have successfully transitioned back to 'full time face to face learning at school'. The students are back to into a more regular routine and the staff love having their classes back in their classrooms.

### An update on activities that can be offered at school

Late last week, schools were informed of changes we are able to make to the activities we are allowed to offer at school. This week we will look at what activities we will resume at Hurstville Grove Infants School and when we will do this. As soon as we have made decisions about this, we will inform the community. I have attached the updated face to face guidelines for your information, although we anticipate most of these additional activities will recommence in Term 3. In the meantime, we are now able to plan for:

- School assemblies (limited to 15 minutes and no external visitors)
- Incursions/external providers can provide activities that support delivery of curriculum
- Community use activities accessed by students such as student sport skills development, Dance Troupe and Music Bus, with safety protocols in place and limited adult attendance.
- Day field trips to outdoor locations with no physical distancing requirements
- School photos – **rescheduled for 20 August 2020.**
- All school sport and activities including competitions aligned with current health advice
- SRE/SEE lessons

We look forward to updating you about what activities we can resume. However, for now, we ask that parents and students continue to follow the current procedures in place. Unfortunately, "non-essential adults are still not permitted on school grounds or at school events – this includes parents/carers unless specifically approved by the principal".

### Drop off and Pick up arrangements

We thank parents for respecting and following our requests around drop off and pick up times. We will continue this routine until the end of the term. We will revisit if there is a need to continue the staggered departure in Term 3 on the advice provided by NSW Health and the Department of Education at that time.

3.00 1S & 1L

3.10 K0 & 2L

We have been so proud of the students, their growing independence and confidence as they independently come into the school grounds to get ready for the school day.

As a school community we celebrate the relationships that our families have established across the school. While we appreciate the social aspect of picking up your child in the afternoon and chatting to friends while your children play outside the school gate, we do emphasise the guidelines of the Department and NSW health, that asks parents to pick up their children and leave the school surrounds immediately. Can we please request that you continue to abide by this advice in the best interest of your own health and wellbeing.

### School Photos

School photos were rescheduled this year to Wednesday 20 August (Week 5, Term 3).

### If your child is unwell

We would like to thank all of the families who kept their unwell children at home last week. We also appreciated the information on students who had been tested for COVID-19 and the update that in all cases came back as negative. Please continue to keep us informed of any possible exposure if you have been in contact with a person who is being tested or has tested positive. We do appreciate your support in helping us to keep everyone safe and well. We also understand that family finances have been impacted upon of late and while it may be tempting to send your child

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to school when he/or she is a little unwell, if your child presents at the office you will be called to come and collect them.

All students are required to return to school each day unless they:

- have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition; or are currently unwell.
- Attendance concerns are being followed up by the office staff and, where required, the Home School Liaison Officers.

#### **School Fees**

We would like to thank the families that have finalised their child's school fees for 2020. We appreciate that COVID-19 has brought uncertainty and has been a challenging financial time for many families. If your family requires an extension, payment plan or financial assistance, Mrs O'Connor is more than happy to coordinate this for you. Please contact her on 9587 3717.

At the P&C executive meeting on Friday morning, I explained to the P&C that the purchase of school resources such as your child's pencils, workbooks, textbooks etc were all purchased by the school just prior to 'learning at home' commencing. This also saw the school expand its online resources for students by purchasing Mathletics, Reading Eggs and PM reading licences per child. These expenses were essential, however have taken the place of other much needed resources across the school. It is for this reason the school has requested that at your convenience that your child's school fees are settled.

#### **School Readiness & 2021 Enrolments**

We are now taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2021. A number of enrolment applications have begun to come in to the office over the past three weeks. If your child, a neighbour/family members child turns 5 by 31st July 2021, he or she is eligible to start school at Hurstville Grove Infants School in 2021. An updated enrolment policy was introduced in 2019. All enrolment applications will be accepted, however families that live at an address outside our catchment area will have their applications reviewed by the school's enrolment panel. The panel will then determine if the school is able to offer out of area applicants a place in 2021.

While our usual practice is to open up the school for a 'school readiness information session' and one to one personal tours of the school for interested families, at this present time this is not an option. To meet the needs of our community, we have created a 'virtual tour' of the school and we have also published a 'school readiness' session. Both of these films can be found on the school website.

Please note that, although we are not currently meeting with families, we are available to speak with you at any time. If you wish to discuss your circumstances or you need to obtain an enrolment form, please contact Mrs O'Connor in the school office and she will be happy to assist you.

#### **Website**

We are currently producing a new website to capture the wonderful learning and opportunities that Hurstville Grove has to offer. We will let you know when we launch this new website.

#### **Parent/Teacher Interviews**

This week you will receive an invitation to participate in a Parent/Teacher Interview. To make this process as easy as possible for you the school has invested in an online booking system this year. All of the instructions will be included in the note sent home. Parent/Teacher Interviews this semester will be phone. Each family can sign up for a 10-minute interview with their child's classroom teacher. We ask that you adhere to this timeframe to ensure teachers can promptly follow the appointment schedule. If you believe you require additional time at the conclusion of your interview we recommend that you contact the school to schedule a follow up interview. We have scheduled enough appointments to cater for parents that co parent their child/ren in two households.

*Wishing you a fabulous week.*

**Kylie McKinnon – Principal**

14 June 2020

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