



TERM 4 RETURN TO SCHOOL UPDATE

17th September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

This information has been prepared in line with the Department of Education's most recent Operations Guide. The school has been notified that this guide may be updated over the holiday period and as such I will update parents and families once this occurs.

WEEK 1

Students are expected to return to remote and flexible learning at the start of Term 4. This means all students will be connecting to school through the use of Seesaw. For the current list of students attending on site, this will continue for the first week and they will be supervised by staff.

The attendance eligibility has remained the same. Only those that have attended on site this term will be permitted for the first week of term 4.

WEEK 2

From Monday 12th October students in Foundation to Year 2 will return to on-site learning full time. This means that ALL students in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 must return to school. Whilst I understand there may be some hesitation with parents, this is an important time for your child to return to school.

Students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will not return to on-site learning until further direction has been provided by the Department. They will continue working in the remote learning space using Seesaw to engage and complete school tasks.

CURRICULUM

It has been further directed by the Department that schools will have the flexibility in relation to determining the curriculum delivery for Term 4 in order to focus on the priorities for students. With this focus the school will determine the importance of all key learning areas and develop a working curriculum with a strong focus on reading, writing and numeracy.

STUDENT ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS

During Term 4 there will be a major focus on identifying the current academic levels of students, the needs of students and the future direction of student planning. Student assessments will take place to fully determine what intervention, if any, needs to be developed.

School reports will take on a similar look to those of Semester 1 this year. Teachers will report on English, Numeracy and Personal capability standards with additional comments as required. We understand this is not the normal level of student reporting you would have known in the past however with the COVID challenges this is the best option moving forward.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Currently there are no plans in place for Year 6 Graduation. The school has been advised to plan for two scenarios – an on site event and one that involves remote connection. There will be further advice on how the event may run once more information is known in Term 4.

VISITORS TO SCHOOLS

As Term 4 begins the ongoing safety of all staff and students will be paramount. Parents and other visitors will not be permitted on-site until further advised. This also means that parents will not be able to attend to collect students throughout the day unless absolutely necessary. Parents MUST phone the school first prior to attendance and face masks must be worn. There is sanitiser at the entrance to the foyer and all visitors must sanitise on entry.

Parents will not be permitted to collect students during school hours unless a phone call has been received. We often have parents attending at 3:00pm to 3:20pm to collect students early. I advise all parents now that this will not be allowed to continue for the safety of office staff. The aim is to reduce the number of parents on-site.

During the day the school gate will be closed and the door to the foyer locked. Again, parents will need to phone the school to gain entry. Whilst this may be an inconvenience to parents, the reduction of risk to staff is of utmost importance.

All visitors to the school will need to complete a sign in process, even if this is to collect a student.

All students will be temperature checked upon entry to school each day.

COMMON QUESTIONS BEING ASKED

Can my other children in years 3-6 attend when my younger child returns?

No. Students in years 3-6 must remain off-site until the Department advises otherwise.

I do not want to return my child to school, can they continue remote learning?

No. Students must return on site unless a medical condition prevents this and a medical certificate must be provided. Students who do not return will not continue with remote learning.

Will students return with staggered start/end times? Will there be different attendance gates?

School times remain the same. Gates will be opened at 8:45am along Tucker street. More information will be sent out about which gate students should enter through. All students will be temperature checked upon entry. Parents will not be permitted to enter the school grounds. Parents who send students prior to 8:45am will not be permitted to enter unless attending Their Care.

Can parents take their children to the classrooms, even in Foundation?

No. Parents will not be permitted to enter on-site unless attending the office to complete enrolment paperwork or they have an appointment with a staff member. Parents will need to say goodbye to students in the street as the students enter the grounds. We understand this is not optimal but important for continued safety.

At the end of the school day, students will be dismissed and parents can collect them from the school gates. Parents must keep the gates clear to allow for free flowing traffic.

What about before and after school care?

Students will be permitted to enter prior to 8:45am if they have been booked into before school care. At the end of the day students will be dismissed from their classroom and go directly to after school care.

What if I want to collect my child earlier?

The process will be that parent's phone the school earlier during the day to advise they need to collect students at a set time. Please note: parents will not be permitted to collect students between 3:00pm and 3:20pm. Parents will need to phone the school upon arrival and the office will arrange for the child to attend the office. Parents must wait outside the office.

Will the school be clean?

Yes. There will be additional cleaning throughout the school once term 4 starts. The end of term cleaning process has already started and we can ensure families the facilities will be clean for when students return. Sanitiser is available throughout the school for staff and students to use.

Toilets will always be cleaned regularly to ensure good hygiene. The drinking taps will not be available and students MUST bring a drink bottle to use throughout the day. These can be refilled using set taps in the school.

Can students use the playgrounds?

Yes, students will be able to use the various playgrounds around the school as directed by teachers. Hand sanitiser will be available to keep hands clean.

My child is a little unwell, can they still attend?

No. Students who are unwell will not be permitted on-site. If they attend and become unwell the school will phone and direct a parent to collect them. If a parent refuses to attend further action will be taken by the school to protect the safety and well-being of all staff and students on-site.

I want to contact the class teacher, how can I do this?

We encourage parents to connect with teachers through the Sentral parent portal where you can send a message to the teacher. Our new phone system also allows for parents to phone and leave a voice message for individual teachers. These messages are then emailed directly to the teacher through the phone system. Even if the teacher is not on-site they will receive your message immediately.

I understand that COVID-19 has caused a great deal of distress and angst among our school community. It is our aim to work with you to best support your child. I encourage all parents to connect with the staff and myself to ensure we are all working towards the same goals.

Have an enjoyable break away from online learning, I look forward to seeing the students back in Term 4.

Ross Carlson
Acting Principal