

A guide for students returning to face-to-face learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

From Monday 25 May, all schools in NSW are returning to full on-site learning for all students. Here at Grahamstown Public School, we are very excited to welcome all our students back. We have developed guidelines, in line with the recommended guidelines put out by the Department of Education, so that you understand the processes and plans we will have in place to keep your children and our staff safe. Please read these guidelines carefully and if unsure of anything, please contact your class teacher or myself via Dojo or by phoning the school.

Attendance

The Department tells us that all students should be at school unless:

- They have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to ongoing medical issues, or
- They are currently unwell

Students with a medical certificate to stay at home due to an ongoing medical issue will be supported in their learning in line with our regular pre-covid procedures. If you require work to be provided to your child whilst they are home due to an underlying health condition, you should contact the school for assistance.

Students who are unwell, are not expected to work from home as they are unwell and need to rest. If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. If they are unwell at school, you or your nominated emergency contact person will be contacted to come and collect them immediately. Please make sure your contact details are up to date.

From Monday 25 May, students who live with a family member in one of the categories identified as being at increased risk by the AHPPC, **should still attend school** unless a medical practitioner advises in writing.

If a student is absent without a medical reason from more than 3 days, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and followed up by the school.

If you need support to get your child back to school, please contact the school for assistance.

Pick up and drop off

We are still asking that no parents or carers enter school grounds unless it is for an emergency. Please continue to do a kiss and drop at the front of the school. Staff will be there to welcome your children and to assist with any problems that may arise. With all our children coming back to school, there will be a lot of traffic and things may get a little congested, so if walking to school is at all possible, it is highly recommended.

To avoid congestion at the gates in the afternoon, we are going to trial a staggered finish for the school day. Students whose last name begins with a letter from A – M, will be dismissed for collection at 2.45pm. We ask that you collect your child/children and leave the gate area as quickly as possible at this time. This **WILL ONLY** apply to children who are being picked up. All bus students or students who go to OOSH will stay in class until the final bell at 3pm. Those whose name begins with N-Z will be dismissed at 3pm as usual. If your children have different surnames, please go with the surname of the eldest child in your family. We hope that this will help with the social distancing requirements that are still in place for adults.



Hygiene at School

Here at school, we are doing everything possible to ensure the safety of your children. The school is receiving additional cleaning in line with the AHPPC guidelines and advice from NSW Health. High touchpoints like door handles, toilets and desktops are cleaned on a regular basis throughout the day. The playground equipment is cleaned after every break, as is sports equipment like balls and skipping ropes.

The children wash their hands before and after every break and eating time, and use hand sanitiser when deemed necessary.

Bubblers are taped up so they can't be used. Please ensure your child brings a water bottle for refilling throughout the day.

Non-contact play and sport activities are organised for lunch and recess play breaks.

The school day

- Children will be dropped off at the front or back gates of the school and enter on their own.
- There will be **NO** assemblies. Students will line up outside their classrooms when the bell goes.
- Normal class activities will take place, including library and technology. Teachers may be off class a little more often than usual to work with their stage colleagues on future planning and to participate in professional learning. If this is the case, we have endeavored to keep consistency with the teacher replacing them and with the planning of work that will be completed during this time.
- The canteen will open for online lunch orders and vouchers for snacks only, Monday – Friday until further notice.
- Normal class non-contact sport will take place. Sport in Schools **will not resume** until Term 3.
- 2.45pm – Students who are being picked up by parents/carers, whose last name begins with A-M will be dismissed for collection from both the front and back gates.
- 3pm – All other students will be dismissed as usual.
- No excursions, scripture, breakfast club or PODS groups will start yet.
- If you need to collect your child early, please call the office ahead of time and we will have your child waiting for you at the front gate. No parents are allowed on site and this includes the office. If you need to speak to anyone at school, please call the office and discuss, or leave a message for a teacher to return your call.

Reporting

Your child will receive a modified Semester 1 report by the end of this term. This will be a simplified version of the report you normally receive, will focus on English and Mathematics and be based on assessments of work completed by your child both at school and at home. In Term 3, we will hold Student Led Conferences and more information about these will come to you at the start of the term.

Please be assured that we are working tirelessly to support you and your children as they return to school full time. We are excited about having them all back and look forward to working with them face to face to provide continuity of learning.

If you have any concerns or anything you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact the school by either phoning the front office or sending a message through Class Dojo to myself or your child's class teacher.

Thank you
Michele Winn
Principal
21/5/2020

