

Monday 27 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and have had a nice break, spending time and staying safe together.

Last week you would have heard announcements from the NSW Premier and the Education Minister regarding school operations for NSW Public Schools in Term 2. The advice is as follows:

Term 2 commences for students on Wednesday 29th April.

Weeks 1-2 (29 April – 8 May)

In weeks 1 and 2 of this term students will continue to 'learn from home' as they did at the end of Term 1. The NSW Premier is encouraging parents to keep their children at home in weeks 1 and 2 where possible. The Department of Education (DoE) has requested students in each class work on one unit of work whether they are learning from home or at school.

Weeks 3-10 'Phased Managed Return' to School from 11 May

NSW Public Schools are looking to increase face-to-face teaching through a gradual return to school for students during Term 2. From Week 3, every student will have the opportunity to start attending school one day a week, with around 25% of students in attendance on any given day. We have been working through the DoE Operational Guidelines to create a model that we feel will work best for our school. We will adjust this model as we receive further advice from the Department. The Premier has stated that in Phase 1 children should be kept at home except for their rostered day and has asked parents to respect the guidelines established by the school. We are working to keep family groups together as much as possible and to ensure students meet with their teachers on the day they are at school.

So what does this look like at Hannans Road?

The Premier and the DoE have determined that all students in a class will work on one unit of work whether they are learning at home or at school. The advice we have received about the number of hours students engage in learning from home each day are 2 ½ hours for students in Years K-2, and 3 hours for students in Years 3-6.

So this is what we're doing

Week 1

On Wednesday 29 April teachers will be online working with students for the same hours as they were at the end of Term 1. Paper copies of work may be collected from the school on Wednesday 29 April.

From Week 2

For this term, teachers have prepared learning packs for each student. Each day, students will work with their teacher online, or on paper copies of the English and maths work, then they will work from their learning packs for the remainder of their time. Learning packs will provide independent learning experiences allowing more flexibility in when students do their work and how they respond. Learning packs also provide learning experiences that encourage creative problem solving through creative and critical thinking activities. Creative and critical thinking have been a main focus of our school for the last two years. Learning packs can be collected from Monday 4 May.

What is in the learning packs?

The learning packs will include activities students can do mostly independently including:

- Reading books: these may be guided readers or independent readers based on teacher knowledge of their students, and a library book.
- A Creative and Critical Thinking matrix: This matrix will have a number of activities to encourage creative and critical thinking across different learning areas. Each day, students select one activity to complete from anywhere on the matrix. It is their choice which activity they complete. The reading books included in the pack are used as a reference for the matrix activity.
- Maths resources and practice activities: These will help students practise their maths skills. Students may choose to do these activities if they wish.
- A skipping rope and tennis ball to remind students to get up, move away from the work and get some physical activity.
- A surprise! The eldest in each family will have a special little something for the whole family to enjoy, or just to enjoy with a sibling.

Everything in the pack belongs to the students, it does not need to be returned to the school. When students begin attending one day a week, they may select other books to take home.

So what does a day of learning look like?

Each day students complete the class English task, the class maths task and then their own choice of activity from the creative and critical thinking matrix. And we encourage all of our students to move away from their devices, get outside and enjoy the day as well. This will be the same at home or at school.

What about when we start one day per week?

The NSW Government and the DoE have a phased approach to a return to school. This starts with one day per week, moving to two days when they believe it is safe to do so and then five days per week. The DoE will determine when these changes happen. Student numbers at school will be limited initially. In your pack you will find information about when your

child needs to come to school, the times for drop off and pick up and arrangements for drop off and pick up.

I would like to thank all of our families not only for your support of your children and our school through this pandemic, but your support of our whole community by keeping students at home and practising social distancing. We appreciate your efforts with learning at home, but please remember this is only a few months out of your child's time at school, and the world is in a similar situation. We will all come back to school eventually and we will be here to support all of our learners. Just do what you can at home, and remember to take a break and get outside in the backyard or on the balcony.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself if you have any concerns.

C. Butler

Principal