

Merimbula Public School



Term 2 Organisation & COVID-19 Safety Procedures Update: May 25, 2020

** From Week 5 – Students return to school 5 days per week.*

Returning To School – May 25:

- ▶ Students will return full time from May 25, 2020 for 5 days per week.
- ▶ **Students will need to bring the following items:**
 - A **drink bottle**;
 - **Electronic devices** borrowed from the school (they will be collected on 25/5/2020, cleaned and returned to classrooms);
 - Their **Learning From Home Packs** (Pack 1 – for collection/marking & Pack 2 – as some tasks still need to be completed).
 - Sporting, music equipment (recorders), Japanese and Music Booklets, cards, counters, rulers etc.
 - Stationery.
 - Warm clothes / full school uniform.

Learning Programs

- ▶ For the remainder of Term 2, classroom teachers will be focussing on Literacy, Numeracy and Science.
- ▶ Classes will have a 20 min time period each week to attend the library for borrowing. Mrs Feneck will be focusing on gathering resources for Term 3 and 4 programs, so that classroom teachers can focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Science Teaching.
- ▶ Japanese lessons will continue to take place. They will be taught in student home classrooms, not from the Japanese Room.
- ▶ Instead of Library lessons, students will receive Japanese (as usual), Physical Education and Music Lessons with a specialist teacher each week, in their classrooms or in the case of PE, outside/in under cover areas.

Key Learning Areas

The following teachers will be teaching Japanese, Music and Physical Education:

- ▶ K-2 Music – Mrs Liz Renauld
- ▶ 3-6 Music – Ms Arati George
- ▶ Family Class Music – Mrs Amanda Fowler
- ▶ K-2 Physical Education – Mr Phil Jackson
- ▶ 3-6 Physical Education – Mr Mark Moses
- ▶ Family Class Physical Education – Mr David Jenkins
- ▶ 8 additional Teachers and three additional School Learning Support Officers / aides (SLSOs) have been employed to further support Literacy, Numeracy, Science and student wellbeing, with all students returning to school.

Learning Support

- ▶ Every class has between 5 and 9 hours of additional teacher and/or SLSO support each week until the end of term, supporting students with their return to school and in receiving explicit Literacy and Numeracy support. This is in addition to the SLSOs and teacher support provided in Term 1.
- ▶ With our Kindergarten Transition Program commencing in the coming weeks, Enrolment Packs and support information is being shared with preschools and early childhood centres in the coming week.
- ▶ School Executive met with local Principals and Eden Marine High School last week, planning our Year 6 to 7 High School Transition. More information will be shared in the coming week.

Physical Distancing

- ▶ Students are no longer required to practice physical distancing on the playground or in the classroom.
- ▶ Physical distancing measures will still take place during sporting activities and physical education in accord with health guidelines.
- ▶ Staff are still required to maintain 1.5m physical distancing from each other, students and parents/caregivers. As a result, we are still unable to have volunteers at school or parents/carers on school grounds.
- ▶ We will be using the Library for borrowing (after recess) only. At other times it will be used as a second Staffroom to support staff in physical distancing, and so that students do not have to have staggered lunchtimes. We want them to have fun with their friends!
- ▶ Parents/caregivers are still required to stay in their cars for pick-up and drop-offs.

Morning Drop-Off Procedures

- ▶ Students are able to catch the bus to school. There is no social/physical distancing on buses. Students are encouraged to sit in family groups on the bus. Buses will have additional cleans.
- ▶ Additional staff will be in place to support students during drop-off (8.30-8.55am). Students can be dropped off in the following areas:
 - ▶ K-2: Randolph Street (opposite the Bus Bay);
 - ▶ 3-6: Henwood Street (back gate);
- ▶ Students will still wash their hands on entry to the school grounds at one of our hand washing stations.
- ▶ When entering classrooms they will also wash their hands/use one of the sanitiser stations that are located in each room.
- ▶ Students can still walk, ride and skate/scooter to school.

Afternoon Pick-Up Procedures

- ▶ Students are able to catch the bus home from school. There is no social/physical distancing on buses. Students are encouraged to sit in family groups on the bus. Buses will have additional cleans.
- ▶ Additional staff will be in place to support students during pick-up times (2.55-3.10pm).
- ▶ Pick-up locations:
- ▶ K-2 (and 3-6 siblings) – Randolph Street (opposite the bus bay) – staff will walk students across the road/supervise them;
- ▶ 3-6 – Henwood Street (back gate);
- ▶ Beach Street (Week 5 only) – A staff member will support students in crossing Main Street all term. For Week 5, they will also walk students around the corner to the parking area on Beach Street.
- ▶ Parents should remain in cars at all times and adhere to parking rules/laws.
- ▶ Students will line up in bus lines as per usual – outside or in the Covered Outdoor Learning Areas in the event of inclement weather. The 'Walking Line for the Front Gate/Beach Street/Randolph Street is opposite the Year 6 Rooms. Students leaving via Henwood Street will line up at the back gate with the supervising teacher.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

- ▶ Existing advice will continue to be followed.
- ▶ We recommend that parents and carers of children and young people with complex medical needs seek medical advice from their health practitioner to support their decision about whether their child can physically attend school. All students are expected to attend school. Students not attending school will require a medical certificate which states that they are unable to attend school due to an ongoing medical condition.
- ▶ Students are to remain at home if they are unwell.
- ▶ If children present with flu-like symptoms, they will need to be collected and taken home. They will also require a medical certificate to return to school.
- ▶ Students who live with a family member in an increased risk category, as per AHPPC guidelines, should still attend school unless a medical practitioner advises the school otherwise in writing.

Safety Procedures

- ▶ We will continue following existing infection control procedures as required.
- ▶ We will be using Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) as recommended in the NSW Department of Education Infection Control Procedures (ie: in the sick bay, when cleaning, if supporting someone who is injured).
- ▶ Standard Precautions for Infection Control Infection control is a term to describe the actions required to prevent the spread of infection between people. Not all infections are known or diagnosed at the time of contact, therefore the Department has reminded staff that it is important to assume that every person is infectious and that they take appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of infection.

Hygiene

- ▶ Schools will continue to promote and encourage good hygiene practices in order to protect against infection and to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- ▶ **Schools should continue to implement effective hygiene practices for both students and staff, including:**
- ▶ Washing hands for 20 seconds with soap and water at regular intervals throughout the day, particularly before and after eating and after going to the toilet.
- ▶ Immediate exclusion from the classroom of any students who are displaying symptoms.
- ▶ Placing used tissues straight into a bin. Also paper towels used for hand drying.
- ▶ Avoiding touching one's eyes, nose and mouth.
- ▶ Not sharing food or drink (staff and students). Water bubblers closed. Refilling drink bottle stations to be used only.
- ▶ Not sharing personal items such as mobile phones, pens and pencils etc. Shared school-owned items will be cleaned between uses.

Hygiene *continued*

- ▶ Young students will be supervised and supported with hand washing to ensure they are practicing good hygiene while at schools. Not when in the bathroom and they wash their hands, however on entry to school, on entry to the classroom and in the room prior to eating.
- ▶ Bathrooms and high touch services will be wiped down during the day in addition to the enhanced schools cleaning program.
- ▶ We have hand sanitiser stations and antibacterial wipes in every classroom.

Routine Care

- ▶ Standard precautions should be followed when it is necessary to come into physical contact with someone for the purpose of providing routine care or assistance.
- ▶ Staff must wash their hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitiser before and after performing routine care.
- ▶ Hand sanitiser will be made available throughout the school.
- ▶ Department infection control procedures should continue to be implemented.

First Aid

- ▶ Standard precautions will be adopted when providing first aid and the Department's First Aid procedures followed.
- ▶ Any student or staff member who is unwell will be isolated in an appropriate space and, in the case of a child, will be collected by a parent or carer as soon as possible.
- ▶ Each school will be supplied with additional resources for the safe operation of their sick bay.
- ▶ The Department's First Aid procedures and the school First Aid Plan must be adhered to as they provide specific guidance for all Departmental workplaces to guide first aid practices.

Environmental Cleaning

- ▶ NSW Health has provided advice to the Department on the appropriate cleaning standards for schools, and these are being implemented. COVID-19 can be readily inactivated by cleaning and disinfection, therefore to reduce the spread of viruses in the school enhanced cleaning measures are being implemented.
- ▶ Schools will continue to be cleaned each day by professional cleaners.
- ▶ Water bubblers can only be used to refill water bottles and will be cleaned after recess and lunch.

School Canteen

- ▶ Our canteen (Sandy Beach Café) will open again on Monday, May 25.
- ▶ The windows/doors will not open.
- ▶ Lunch Orders only will be provided, and delivered to classrooms.
- ▶ Students are able to put their Lunch Order into the Lunch Order box near the handwashing station on entry to the school grounds.
- ▶ A revised Term 2 Menu was sent home last week. It is available on our website, Facebook page and School Stream app.
- ▶ We are unable to have canteen volunteers at this time.

Uniform Shop

- ▶ Our Uniform Shop, owned by Daylight Uniforms, is unable to open at this time.
- ▶ We are still taking phone orders and payments for uniforms. Pick-up / collection will be arranged when you call us on (02)64951266.
- ▶ Second hand uniforms are cleaned and available also. Please contact the school to check availability of items.
- ▶ We are not collecting uniform donations at this time.
- ▶ Student Assistance is available for uniforms should parents/carers be affected financially as a result of COVID-19.

Psychological/Physical Wellbeing

- ▶ The Department is working hard to ensure the continued psychological and physical well-being of our students and staff.
- ▶ Student's' social and emotional wellbeing will be supported by the managed return to school.
- ▶ Student counsellors and itinerate staff continue to provide support to students and schools.
- ▶ Our School Psychologist will be working each Thursday for the remainder of Term 2, as well as on Tuesday and Wednesday each week.
- ▶ Referrals to the School Psychologist should be made via email or via a phone call to your child's classroom teacher.

Assessing Student Learning Progress

- ▶ Ongoing assessment of student learning throughout Term 2 will be important to enable teachers to provide feedback to students and guide their ongoing provision of appropriate learning tasks.
- ▶ Teachers will continue to make adjustments to assessments as required for students whose learning is affected by disability and for students learning English as an additional language.
- ▶ This should reflect the adjustments made to support the student's learning.
- ▶ A modified Semester 1 report will be sent home in Term 3. The report will not be sent home until Week 5, Term 3.
- ▶ If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning/wellbeing, please contact your child's teacher by phone in the first instance, or email them via:

merimbula-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Sport and Physical Education

- ▶ As students return to full time face to face learning, sport and physical activity programs will initially focus on non-contact sports. The resumption of unrestricted sport and physical activity is in line AHPPC guidelines and NSW Health advice.
- ▶ Safety and Hygiene: The following hygiene measures will continue to apply to all sport and physical activities in schools:
 - ▶ Hand hygiene practices will take place at regular intervals as required.
 - ▶ Students are to not train if unwell.
 - ▶ Students are expected to stay away from school or be collected by a parent/carer should they become unwell during the day.
 - ▶ Students should not be participating in sport if they are unwell.
 - ▶ Students will not share items such as drink bottles or towels. Students should provide their own personal items such as water bottles.

Sport and Physical Education *cont.*

- ▶ All sport and physical activity equipment (including shared equipment and clothing such as school sporting singlets and bibs) must be cleaned at the end of each session.
- ▶ Equipment that cannot be cleaned after each use should not be shared.
- ▶ Environment cleaning. Standard daily cleans as well as the cleaning of high touch areas should occur within sporting facilities.
- ▶ Apply standard precautions for infection control. Staff should continue to adhere to the Infection Control requirements outlined in the Requirements for All Sport and Physical Activity and First Aid procedures.
- ▶ Protocols for spills of blood and other bodily substances must be followed where any clothing, equipment and surfaces are contaminated by bodily fluid such as blood following a player injury.
- ▶ Students will avoid shaking hands. Students should not shake opposition hands at the conclusion of a sport activity.

Sport and Physical Education *cont.*

- ▶ As students return to full time face to face learning, sport and physical activity programs will initially focus on non-contact sports.
- ▶ Students can participate in small group sport and physical activities however staff are to continue to maintain physical distance when supervising students during these programs.
- ▶ Schools can recommence use of external sporting grounds and community facilities where schools have exclusive use of the facilities and where contact with the general public can be avoided.
- ▶ Private bus/school transport to/from venues is permitted.
- ▶ Indoor and outdoor non-contact skills training and games are permitted. Sharing of sporting and physical activity equipment (except fitness equipment and weights) is permitted and should follow safe health practice guidelines including cleaning of equipment at the end of the session.

Contact Sport Guidelines

- ▶ Competitive contact sport or physical activity is restricted.
- ▶ Inter-school sport competitions such as zone sport, state wide competitions and knockouts, gala days or inter-school carnivals are not permitted.
- ▶ School carnivals such as athletics, cross country and swimming carnivals are not permitted.
- ▶ Full contact and semi-contact sports are not permitted.
- ▶ The use of public change rooms should be avoided wherever possible.
- ▶ On sport day, students should come to school wearing their sport uniform and appropriate footwear where possible. Stage 2 students have Sport on Tuesday. All other students have Sport on Wednesdays this term.
- ▶ PE is on a Thursday or Friday. Class days will be shared on Facebook this week.

Contact Sport Guidelines

- ▶ Structured school sporting programs remain a requirement, it is appreciated that with continued restrictions preventing external sporting providers such as gyms, health centres, and bowling alleys from operating, schools may need to re-consider their current structures for sport delivery for the remainder of Term 2 or until such time as external provider restrictions are eased.
- ▶ In some cases, Principals may deem it not possible to run sporting programs - this may be especially relevant in large school settings with limitations to onsite space and local sporting grounds.
- ▶ What does this mean for sport and physical activity at my school?

Contact sports / semi-contact sports:

Contact sports such rugby league, football/soccer, basketball and netball are not allowed in their standard game-based format.

Skills-based drills and challenges, fitness activities and modified small-sided activities can be utilised as an option.

Social distancing and sharing of equipment measures (cleaning after each use) will take place.

Contact Sport Guidelines cont.

- ▶ **Small-sided modified games**, for example, kick tennis, passing games, shooting games can take place.
- ▶ Modified 'run the bases' / rounders type activities such as soccer and baseball can take place.
- ▶ Skills-based activities, where students are allocated individual zones, for example, kick tennis is allowed.
- ▶ Non-contact activities such as table tennis, badminton, cricket, t- ball, tennis and volleyball are permitted.
- ▶ Accidental contact may occur but no deliberate body contact is allowed. Social distancing and sharing of equipment measures should be taken into account.
- ▶ Activities could be individual or team-based and recreational or competitive in nature, for example, running challenges, mini tennis. Activities that can be conducted by an individual student or in pairs, for example, hand ball, is permitted.
- ▶ Small-sided/modified games of cricket, t-ball/baseball and volleyball is ok.

Contact Sport Guidelines cont.

- ▶ **Recreational and fitness activities**, such as running, walking, in- school fitness activities: Where the use of a community facility, such as a local park or oval is required, a risk assessment must be undertaken. There should be minimal or no contact with the general public. Permission notes will be sent home should we choose to hold such activities.
- ▶ The sharing of equipment should be avoided.
- ▶ Transportation to and from community facilities must adhere to departmental guidelines.
- ▶ **The following activities are permitted:**
 - Bushwalking, walking clubs, running and cycling.
 - Bootcamps, fitness circuits, dance, yoga, HllT training.
- ▶ **Use of external providers for delivery of sport and physical activity - not permitted.** Schools cannot engage outside providers to support the school sport and physical activity program.
- ▶ *Our children will engage in a range of sport and physical activity following these guidelines, supported by PE Teachers.*

Other Activities

- ▶ We are still unable to hold Assemblies.
- ▶ Students will line up in bus lines as per usual – outside or in the Covered Outdoor Learning Areas in the event of inclement weather. The 'Walking Line for the Front Gate/Beach Street/Randolph Street is opposite the Year 6 Rooms. Students leaving via Henwood Street will line up at the back gate with the supervising teacher.
- ▶ Excursions and Camps are unable to be held.
- ▶ Our Year 6 Camp will not be taking place in Term 3 (it was scheduled for Week 3). We are currently investigating whether the camp can be postponed, or whether another camp will be able to take place. Holding a Year 6 Camp will depend on Department of Education advice at the time, following APPHC Guidelines. Should our Year 6 camp take place, we will survey parents/caregivers to ascertain interest. If the camp takes place, it will not be until Term 4.
- ▶ We are still unsure as to whether we can have a Year 6 Camp, Year 5 Camp or other grade/parent events in the coming terms. We will keep you updated as we find out more.