



Learning from Home – At School Procedures for Students on School Grounds

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Thank you to all parents and caregivers for your amazing *Learning from Home* efforts, for supporting our staff, your children and our community by collaborating once again with our school to support *Learning from Home* and minimising movement within our community. We really appreciate that the majority of families have been able to keep their children at home and we are thrilled with the very high number of families engaging in *Learning from Home* activities and for communicating this with their classroom teacher via Class Dojo messenger.

Parents/caregivers who are working from home, or not working even for part of the school day **MUST** keep their children at home for that period. This is essential in maintaining NSW Health and the Department of Education's high safety standards, as we all work together to keep everyone safe.

NSW Health and the Department of Education are asking us to minimise movement in our community as much as possible. We also know that the Delta strain of COVID-19 impacts on children to a greater degree than we have seen previously, so we need to be extra cautious.

I am writing to you today to respectfully remind our families that you **MUST** continue to keep your children at home wherever you can.

Our school has been doing this well so far, with only 9 students attending school yesterday, and 15 students attending today. Despite this, we have been asked to reduce the number of students attending on site if at all possible. We also remind families that students should not attend school if unwell/displaying flu like symptoms, to further support safety standards - as they will continue to be sent home and will require a negative COVID-19 test/10 days at home prior to returning.

In order to keep our students and community safe, this afternoon we have also been directed to make some changes in the interest of everyone's safety. Therefore, from tomorrow, the supervision of students on site will be happening with additional and stronger restrictions, to support keeping our essential service workers' children safe.

What does this mean for my child if he/she will be attending school as I am working outside of my home as an essential worker?

- For your child's safety, students are required to be physically distanced from each other and from staff. In order to facilitate this, all students attending school will be working in the hall at individual desks that are spread out in this larger space;
- Students attending school will be unable to share any equipment inside or at break times. Students will also be utilising the equipment they bring from home (or they will be provided equipment/books to read that will then be sanitised between use by other students, in accord with Infection Control Guidelines);
- Students attending school can not mingle or play together at break times. Passive, individual play is required where they can interact with others from a distance, but students will have no physical contact with others. Students will maintain 1.5m of physical distancing from others at all times;
- Supervising staff can not provide any activities for students in addition to those provided through our previously distributed *Learning from Home* tasks for students learning at home, even if students finish early;

- Supervising staff can only provide very minimal guidance to students, whilst following 1.5m physical distancing guidelines (whilst wearing masks). Staff can talk students through the steps required to complete their *Learning from Home* work packs, but are unable to provide one to one support;
- Supervising staff are unable to provide any sport or PE opportunities for students, and students will not have free play on the playground or equipment, to ensure that mingling of students is managed. We have been advised to contact parents/caregivers to discuss concerns, should students not be able to maintain distancing in this or any other regard;
- When students complete their tasks for the day, they unfortunately can not be provided with additional tasks or activities by supervising staff. If you NEED to send your child to school, you might like to consider sending in some books or other activities from home, that they can do individually if they complete their provided tasks before the end of the day.

While this is of course not our regular manner of operating and supporting our students at school, we do need to follow these guidelines, NSW Health recommendations and Department of Education restrictions for the safety of our entire community, especially our children, and their essential service working families.

I do know that some parents and caregivers are unable to work from home and have no other options to supervise children. Children of essential and critical workers are permitted to attend school if their parents are working outside of the home. However, if you are at home, you MUST keep your children at home with you.

If you have to go to work for only part of the school day, please bring your child to school only for the period you are at work. We are happy for you to drop children off late or collect them early to minimise the number of students on site together. If there are any days that you are not at work, you MUST keep your children at home on those days. Students attending school will still enter via the front administration office gate, but must immediately go to the hall for supervision. The playground will be closed before school. Students attending school for part days must arrive at the same location and will be given a space to complete their work in the hall on arrival.

Our staff are working so hard to ensure that *Learning from Home* tasks are able to be completed as independently as possible. We also know that our families are all doing their best. We thank you all so much for your support in this regard. We are here to support you via Class Dojo messenger and by answering email and phone questions as soon as possible. Please take advantage of these supports if you need to, and don't hesitate to reach out to us if you are not sure. Please continue to be mindful that minimal staff are in attendance on site and those answering calls and emails are most likely to be working from home.

We are so proud of all that our community is doing, all of the sacrifices we are all making and all of the creative ways our community is managing *Learning from Home* at this time in order to keep us all safe, and most importantly to keep calm and ensure that our children/students are supported in having fun, playing and maintaining their mental health and wellbeing. We know that this is really hard for everyone. It is only with all of us following the guidelines, that the current situation will improve.

We are very grateful to our families for the support they continue to provide our students, staff and wider school community, and we appreciate, and know, that each family will do whatever they can to keep their children at home and safe, wherever it is possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding in this challenging situation.

Kind Regards,
Michelle Hulme
Principal