



NORTHLAKES PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Week 5 Information for Families: Return to Fulltime Face-to-Face Teaching

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you've no doubt heard and seen through the media, all schools are returning to full time face-to-face learning from Monday 25th May. All school activities and operations will be in line with AHPPC guidelines and NSW Health advice, as applicable. The key messages to our community are:

- The best outcome for students is that they are back at school.
- Schools continue to be safe and operations are in line with AHPPC guidelines.
- All students are expected to be back at school unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence.

Social Distancing

School students do not need to follow physical distancing guidelines, but should follow good hygiene practices like:

- Regularly washing hands
- Avoiding sharing drinks and food
- Coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately.

Attendance

All students are expected to attend school unless they are unwell. If you believe your child has a condition which means it is not safe for them to return to school, you will need to obtain a medical certificate. This means your child is either:

- At school
- At home because they are currently unwell
- At home because they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition.

Please note, students who are residing with a family member in one of the categories identified as being at increased risk, should attend school unless a medical practitioner advises otherwise. Parent or carer should provide written confirmation from the treating health professional that the student is unable to attend school.

Children who become unwell at school will need to be collected by you or your nominated emergency contact, as per regular procedures. Please ensure your contact details are up to date. If a student is absent without a medical reason for more than three days, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and followed up by regular school procedures. If you need support to get your child back to school, please call the school office.

Semester 1 Reports

Teachers are working on preparing Semester 1 reports, however, these will look vastly different to the extensive reports usually sent home. Whilst we are still working on specific details, these will most likely be

a one page document with comments regarding progress in mathematics and English as well as a general comment, work habits and attendance information. These will be distributed sometime between the end of Term 2 and week 6, Term 3.

What is still on hold?

We will continue to follow the school curriculum, with the exception of some activities which are still on hold for now;

- Assemblies
- Incursions and excursions
- Inter-school activities
- Activities that involve parent or other volunteers
- Use of bubblers
- On site therapy sessions (speech, OT etc)

Enhanced Cleaning

Enhanced cleaning continues in our school in addition to the daily clean. Additional cleaning staff means that high-touch areas such as door handles, handrails, light switches and high traffic areas, like bathrooms, are cleaned at regular intervals throughout the day. Regular cleaning of our playground fixed equipment, outdoor seating, sports equipment and technology equipment is also being undertaken.

Hygiene

All staff and students are encouraged to practice good hygiene at all times. Classrooms have a supply of hand soap, paper towel and hand sanitiser for use throughout the day – particularly when entering and exiting the classroom, before and after eating and after using the bathroom. A handwashing video has been created which students watch daily and signage has been placed throughout the school promoting these hygiene practices.

We ask that your child brings their own drink bottle to school each day. However, toys and other personal items should remain at home to assist in maintaining a safe and hygienic environment.

School Grounds

There should be no visitors to school sites unless they are essential. This includes parents coming onto the school grounds to collect children. It is a priority for adults to social distance, especially when collecting students from outside the school. Arrival and departure procedures have been constructed in accordance with guidelines and are outlined below. Access to school grounds may be granted on a case by case basis where specific circumstances require it and this is the determination of the Principal or Executive Staff. Messages for students and communication with staff is to be via phone call, email or messaging the school Facebook page. All calls and emails will be passed on to the relevant staff or student.

Arrival and Departure Procedures

All schools have been asked by the Department of Education to not have parent access to school grounds, with particular reference to before and after school. Over the past fortnight we have developed and trialled new procedures which will remain in place for the immediate future.

Morning

Students will be greeted at the pedestrian gate from 8:00am by staff and supervised as they walk up the path and into the playground. Staff will escort and assist younger students as well as those who need some help either separating from parents or walking sensibly.

Afternoon

All students will gather in designated areas at 2:15pm. Staff will supervise the staggered dismissal process and escort students down the front path to the pedestrian gate. Students who cannot see a parent/carer and don't walk themselves home will wait just inside the gate with a staff member for safety reasons. Students will be released in this order:

- Siblings
- Single students
- Muck-a-bout and school bus students

As the dismissal is staggered and begins at 2:15pm, it is likely that some students will be on their way home before the usual finish time of 2:30pm and some just after. With 378 students to depart via the one pedestrian gate, this is unavoidable. Students who cannot see a parent/carer and who don't walk home alone will be held back to wait just inside the gates with a staff member to ensure their safety.

Uniform Shop

At this stage, our uniform shop will not be open for access by parents. You will need to order online via Flexischools and orders will be filled the following Monday and delivered to classrooms.

Canteen

Our canteen will be open and operating from Monday 25th May. Ordering options are: 1. Online through Flexischools 2. correct money in envelope or paper lunch bag 3. over the counter sales for students. The full, regular menu is available for both breaks. These procedures will be reviewed weekly and changes made as necessary. Please note – parents and carers will NOT be given access to the school grounds for the purposes of obtaining change for lunch orders, this needs to be arranged prior to arriving at school.

Loaned Devices and Completed Work

It is expected that all devices loaned, and any cords or chargers, will be returned to the school on Monday 25th May. Staff will collect these devices and process as returned.

Students should also bring their completed work and any books/equipment back to school and give to their class teacher.

Finally;

Thank you to all families for your efforts in assisting your children to work from home during this period. We appreciate the support you've given us through staying in touch and your children, in helping them to adjust to learning remotely. From next week we will return to our usual methods of written communication, although the newsletter won't come home until later in the week, for next week only. We are excited to welcome back all students into their regular classes from Monday.

Kind regards,

Larry Micevski

Principal