



Monday 12 July 2021

## COVID-19 UPDATE - TERM 3 LEARNING FROM HOME

As has previously been communicated, the holidays brought with it restrictions, that unfortunately have not had the impact that was hoped on the transmission of COVID-19. This left the NSW Department of Education (NSW DoE) with no option but to return to the learning from home model that was first implemented in March of last year.

This means from Tuesday 13 July 2021 to Friday 16 July 2021 and potentially beyond, parents have been asked to keep their children at home, where possible. Parents will be supported with this decision through an online learning program for students.

While we understand that this is an unsettling and difficult time for many people in our school community, we hope to make the transition to learning from home as easy as possible. Please find below an update of some of the actions and decisions made in the last week that may or may not affect you and your child in the coming days and weeks.

### Online learning and support

Seesaw (K-2) and Google Classroom (3-6) are fully operational and learning from Tuesday 13 July 2021, will be provided via these platforms by 5:00pm on Monday 12 July 2021 (later today). From Tuesday, staff will be providing online and phone support daily between 10:00am – 2:00pm for parents and students. Should you require support, the most efficient means would be to contact your child's teacher through the platform being used (Seesaw or Google Classroom), or via the school email [woonona-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:woonona-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

### School devices to support online learning from home

The families who have contacted us regarding the need to access school devices for learning from home, will be contacted and arrangements will be made to collect devices, where possible. This contact will only be made after we have a stronger understanding of the student numbers who will be on site. We need to ensure that there is an adequate number of devices onsite for students who are attending school.

### 'Learning from Home' Hub

The NSW DoE have a '[Learning from home](#)' hub on the department's website which provides information and resources for teachers and parents to support learning from home. Teaching strategies and resources, learning sequences, student workbooks and materials are being regularly added to for students Preschool to Year 12. It is an open page that is accessible to the public.

### **Student attendance**

All students who are learning from home will be marked as attending school, based on the student's engagement with online learning. Teachers will monitor student work. Those families not returning sufficient content will be contacted and the teacher and family will attempt to work through any issues with online engagement. For ongoing lack of online engagement, students will be given an unexplained absence from school.

### **School is open for families that need it**

Our school will remain open for those parents who are not in a position to keep their children at home. Those parents who work in our health system, education system, emergency services and other essential workers are able to access suitable supervision for their child's learning at school. It is for this reason that we remain open, so that the essential services, that are required in society, are available in a time of high need.

Minimal supervision will be provided whilst at school. Minimal staff are to be onsite, as directed by the NSW DoE. Students will be completing the same online unit that students at home will be. Students who attend will be placed in similar aged cohorts and will have their online learning supervised by a teacher. No teaching will be occurring. Students do not have to socially distance, but minimal staff on site will maintain small class numbers, where possible.

### **Entering school grounds**

Parents should only enter the school grounds in the event of an urgent matter. Parents are only to enter via the front office. We ask that you adhere to mask-wearing requirements and sign-in using the Service NSW QR code when entering the school.

In the event that you require to pick your child up early/drop off your child late, please contact the office, via phone, on 4284 4316. This will allow the office to make appropriate arrangements that will minimise your need to be on site.

### **Drop off and pick up arrangements, should your child need to attend school**

School hours, for the time being, will remain the same as we are expecting minimal numbers to enter/exit each day. We ask parents to drop their child off as close to 9:00am as possible and to pick up at 3:00pm, each day. Please stay in your car when dropping off and picking up children, if it is safe to do so. If this is not possible, parents should follow the physical distancing advice and avoid gathering outside of school gates. We will only be opening the gates located on Gray Street. Please utilise these gates at the beginning and end of each day, should your child be attending.

### **Students and Staff who are unwell**

Any student or staff member with any symptoms, or who is feeling unwell, must not attend school and should take a COVID test immediately. Anyone who has been off sick, or is sent home sick from school, will be required to return a negative COVID test before being permitted to return to school. Even with a negative COVID test, students and staff can only return to school, once all COVID symptoms have passed.

### **Term 3 guidelines**

If you would like to know more, the current Term 3 guidelines released by the NSW DoE can be found at the following link: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families/schools-in-greater-sydney1>

### **Face masks on site**

Face masks are now required to be worn by all staff members, whilst indoors. Only students in Year 7 and above are required to wear a face mask in indoor settings. If your child must attend school, and you wish for them to wear a face mask whilst at school, they will be supported to do so.

### **Enhanced Cleaning**

Enhanced cleaning arrangements will remain in place. This will include additional cleaning that will take place prior to and after the school day, as well as throughout the day.

### **PPE and Hygiene Packs**

PPE and Hygiene Packs have been distributed to schools by the NSW DoE. Supplies include masks, gloves, wipes, hand sanitiser and hand soap. These additional items have started arriving today and will continue to arrive regularly over the coming days and weeks.

### **P&C Meeting and Meet and Greet**

Our next P&C Meeting, which was due to be held this Wednesday, has been postponed. Further updates on when our next meeting will go ahead will be shared at a later date.

Regrettably the P&C's Meet and Greet will have to be postponed again. We cannot hold the event in the current lockdown situation. We will reschedule the event as soon as possible. Thank you all for your understanding with this matter.

### **School operation to consider**

- The canteen will not be open until further notice
- The uniform shop will not be open until further notice Our Space OOSHC will remain open for those families that need it – please contact the OOSHC should this be the case
- Non-essential visitors are not permitted on the school site until further notice

### **School events to consider**

- Southern Stars has been postponed until 5 and 6 November 2021
- The Choral Festival, that was planned for Week 3 of Term 3, has been cancelled for 2021
- The Mindfulness program is postponed until further notice
- CoS STEM program (10 Stage 3 students only) is postponed until further notice
- Education Week activities are under review
- CoS Public Speaking Finals are under review
- Stage 3 camp is under review and we are currently consulting with the camp to work through possible options
- Year 6 parent fundraising/farewell meeting scheduled for Tuesday Week 2 is postponed. New date to be confirmed.

All other events in the coming weeks are being assessed for possible involvement. Once decisions are made, further communication will be distributed to those students and families that are involved.

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Amid our current world and the pressures that have come, I want to recognise the many families who are dealing with so many more complexities. Throughout this pandemic, I have had many conversations with families who are dealing with the economic fallout from COVID-19. With this comes further additional pressure and I want to reach out to those families by saying that we are very much here to offer support should you need it. While a vast majority of our school will now be learning from home, please know that we are only a phone call or email away and that there are resources and organisations that we can utilise, where possible, to support those who need it. A wonderful resource available to all families, during this time, is <https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/wellbeingresources>. I encourage all families to take the time to have a look. It is important, more than ever, that we are looking after our own wellbeing. Please take the time to ensure that your health is the best it can be; your families are relying on you more than ever during this time.

If you have any questions or concerns please inform your child's teacher on Tuesday, when they begin teaching. Alternatively, you may contact the school office on 4284 4316 or via email on [woonona-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:woonona-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au).

Stay safe and take care.

Tim Fisher  
Principal