



With so much school information coming through to families, via teachers, we have deliberately kept whole school correspondence to a minimum. Changes to processes, through the NSW DoE, have been less regular and dramatic than the previous year, which is a good thing, but we now felt it was important to update our community.

I would like to start by again thanking our whole community for your support over what has been, and will no doubt continue to be, an extremely challenging time. From our school's perspective, it is with great pride that we look at what we have achieved as a school community. As a school, as students and as families, we have transitioned well into a world that for most of us we have experienced before. Most importantly, we have used the experiences of the past to keep perspective and maintain a realistic approach this time around.

The success, to this point in time, is very much a credit to staff and parents for the great job that has been done in showing each other support and remaining focused on helping families and children adapt to the changes. Meanwhile our students have adapted to their new situation and taken on learning that has brought with it many other challenges. I'd like to make a special mention of our Kindergarten students who are experiencing this for the first time. I have been so impressed by how students have adjusted to the changes, whether at home or at school, diligently and enthusiastically going about their learning in a way that is so different to the way in which they traditionally learn.

Please find below relevant information, which may be of help, as we move through Week 3:

School Attendance

Thank you to the many families who are supporting us in keeping our numbers at school down. A reminder that we continue to be driven by the NSW DoE to have minimal staff on site – we have been told, if possible, that there should be a maximum of five staff on site each day, including administrative staff. Please continue to keep your children at home, unless you have to. Now is the time to focus on the health and safety of our whole school and community, by staying at home if possible.

All school activities are on hold

All additional school activities will remain on hold until advice from the NSW DoE changes. This means that all excursions and extra-curricular activities (performing arts, sports, etc.) will not occur or resume until advice says that it is safe to do so.

Realistic expectations for home learning

The feedback I have received from staff regarding student engagement with online tasks has been exceptional. Thank you to parents for your commitment in ensuring your children are engaging so consistently, and at such a high level, with the learning that has been set. Having said that, I want to ensure that parents also remain realistic about our expectations. While work is being set, we want families to understand that some days will be better than others and that if you choose from time to time to prioritise health and wellbeing (for you or your children) over lesson content, you have our full support.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Throughout this experience, teachers have and will be making phone contact with all of our families. We want to hear how things are going, the good and the not so good; honesty as always is the best policy. I can't stress enough that we need to know how you are travelling. If a quiet word on the phone might assist or a message of support may refocus your child or children, please ask. We are open to other ideas you might have to support you too, so please don't hesitate to ask. In addition, if you or your family are finding that our current situation is causing great distress, please reach out. Our school is well placed to support families in accessing resources that may assist.

Education Week

Week 3 of every Term 3 is Education Week, a time when we celebrate all the great things about Public Education. The theme for Education Week 2021 is "Lifelong Learners". While obviously this year comes with challenges to celebrate, I believe there is still great reason to do so – the theme this year could not be more appropriate, as parents and teachers model to children that we can evolve and work through new experiences, learn from our situations and evolve to make it work. Well done to all our adults out there that are displaying they are "Lifelong Learners".

It will certainly be an interesting week, regarding restrictions, as we find out the next steps that will be decided by the NSW Government. Please know that whatever decision is made, our school will be finding out at the same time as you and therefore whatever decision-making that is required by our school, and communication that will follow, will take time and planning.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support during these trying times.

Stay safe

Tim Fisher

Principal