

Excellence, innovation and success in a caring environment.

Alfords Point Public School

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Friday 22 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Premier announced earlier this week that all schools are returning to full on-campus learning from Monday 25 May 2020.

The school is looking forward to seeing students return to school fulltime on Monday and is committed to assisting all students transition back smoothly and positively engage in their learning. Until further notice, the school will continue to limit visitors onsite. There should be no visitors to school sites unless they are essential. Parents/Carers are asked to please contact the office via email or telephone if possible.

The Canteen will remain closed at this time; however, we may provide counter sales at times over the coming weeks. This will be advertised to parents via skoolbag and the Facebook page. Please ensure students are sent to school each day with recess and lunch. Students will also need a water bottle as the bubblers have been disabled.

Before and After School Care, Cindi Kindi is open as usual. If you require before and after school care placements please contact Cindy.

All school activities and operations will be in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health guidelines as applicable.

The latest advice to schools indicates that:

- 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 back at school unless they are unwell or have a medical certificate to support their absence.

Students should now be wearing their **full winter school uniform** to school everyday. Sports day for K-2 is Thursday and Year 3-6 Friday. Please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled to avoid loss. The uniform shop is open for online orders. Thank you to the uniform committee for providing this service to our families.

From Monday 25 May 2020, students are asked to place their school bag outside their classroom, as per Term 1 morning arrangements, if they arrive before the bell and then move to the COLA area until the morning bell goes at 9am. Parents/Carers are asked to refrain from entering the school grounds as much as possible. Please encourage your child to carry their own bag into school.

School Attendance:

All students are expected to attend school from Monday 25 May 2020 unless they are unwell.

If Parents/Carers believe their child has a condition which means it is not safe for them to return to school, they will need to obtain a medical certificate.

From Monday 25 May 2020, all students should be at school unless:

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

Students who have a medical certificate to stay at home will be supported to learn from home in line with regular procedures if they are able to. These regular procedures are different to what was offered during the learning from home period.

Please note, students who live with a family member in one of the categories identified as being at increased risk by the AHPPC, should attend school unless a medical practitioner advises otherwise in writing.

If your child is unwell, do not send them to school. If your child has a runny nose, cough, temperature and/or is generally unwell they must not come to school. If a child is unwell at school the Parent/Carer or nominated emergency contact will need to collect them immediately. Please make sure all 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 the school.

If you need any support to get your child back to school, please contact the school.

School Supplies – Textbooks, Stationery

On Monday please ensure that your child comes to school with all textbooks and workbooks that were sent home to support remote learning. All students will need to supply their own stationery in a clearly labelled pencil case to limit sharing amongst students.

Please ensure students bring lunch and recess, school hat, jumper, own water bottle as the bubblers cannot be accessed – bottles can be refilled from taps if required. Please clearly label everything.

Homework

Parent/Carers are advised that there will be no set formal homework for students for the remainder of Term 2 as we transition back into full time face to face learning. Students are encouraged to access online platforms made available to students during remote learning such as Reading Eggs, PM e-collection, Reading Express, to support their reading development. Students will be able to borrow library books; however, home readers will not be sent home at this time.

BYOD

BYOD days are as per term 1.

Monday – 5/6 B, 5/6D, 4/5M

Tuesday – 5/6B, 5/6D

Wednesday – 1/2P, 1/2M, 1/2J

Thursday – 3/4 P, 3/4R, 4/5M

Friday – KT, KD

Changes to drop-off and pick-up

Morning Drop OFF

A staff member will be on duty from 8.30am everyday; however, to support social distancing students are encouraged to arrive at school as close to 9am as possible and remain in the COLA area where a teacher will be on duty.

A staff member will also be on duty at the gates from 8.45am to 9am from Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2020 to support any child who is feeling anxious or upset as they enter the school grounds.

We respectfully request that parents refrain from entering the school grounds. Please drop your child off at the school gate in the morning and in the afternoon wait on the footpath along the fence line outside your allocated gate or near your vehicle for the students to come to you. Please remember to tell your child which gate to meet you at, to avoid confusion.

Entry to the school will be via the following gates:

- Brushwood Drive main gate
- Brushwood Drive school crossing gate
- Coachwood Crescent crossing gate
- Coachwood Walkway gate – at rear of school linking Coachwood Crescent to oval

Afternoon pick up

In the afternoon, students will be dismissed alphabetically in family groupings to a designated school gate. Parents/Carers are asked to wait at this meeting place. The dismissal times will be staggered to assist with congestion. Parents/Carers are asked to collect promptly and leave the area. Please cooperate by standing along the fence line or near your vehicle and let your child walk to you. To avoid congestion, please do not hover at the gate entry.

2.50pm singular child family

A-H surname - **Coachwood Walkway** gate – at rear of school linking Coachwood Crescent to oval
I –O surname - Brushwood Drive **school crossing** gate
P-V surname - **Coachwood Crescent crossing** gate
W - Z surname - Brushwood Drive **main gate**

3pm sibling family groups

A-H surname - **Coachwood Walkway** gate – at rear of school linking Coachwood Crescent to oval
I –O surname - Brushwood Drive **school crossing** gate
P-V surname - **Coachwood Crescent crossing** gate
W - Z surname - Brushwood Drive **main gate**

School bus travel

Students who catch the bus home in the afternoon will do so as per the current bus arrangement. They will be supervised as per usual at the bus stop until the bus arrives.

We understand that this may not be convenient for all; however, we respectfully request that Parents/Carers do not arrange to meet at a different gate.

School activities

Teachers will continue to follow the same school curriculum with the exception of some activities which cannot go ahead for now.

At this point in time students will be unable to engage in the following activities:

- School assemblies (unless for critical information)
- School incursions and excursions including camps
- Inter-school activities (debating, inter-school sport)
- In-school activities requiring parent or other volunteers
- Drink from a water bubbler – bring a water bottle instead

Accounts

The office is currently looking into payments made in Term 1 for activities. Monies paid, requiring to be refunded, have been placed into fees in advance at this time. The office will contact individual Parents/Carers by the end of term regarding refunds. Please note the payments are returned the way they were received.

School cleaning and hygiene supplies

The school is receiving additional cleaning in line with the AHPPC guidelines and advice from NSW Health. Under this arrangement, the school has been provided with an additional cleaner so that we have three cleaners each day. We have also been allocated extra cleaning hours resulting in the school having a cleaner on site everyday *from 9am – 3pm*.

Targeted areas include high-touch areas and other hard surfaces such as door handles, light switches and handrails in movement areas are being regularly cleaned. There will also be additional cleaning of toilets and topping up of supplies like soap.

The school has received supplies of soap, hand sanitiser, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes and personal protective equipment. We are constantly monitoring our supplies to ensure that we do not run out and additional supplies are ordered as required.

The school continues to engage in regular daily handwashing and supporting students to practise good hygiene. Parents/Carers are encouraged to also support their child in following good hygiene practices like:

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

Responding to COVID-19 cases

The Department of Education has a clear plan in place for schools to respond to any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our schools. They are working closely with NSW Health. The school will communicate with parents if a situation was to arise.

Reporting and assessment

All students will receive a Semester 1 report; however, the report will be modified as a consequence of COVID -19. In line with Departmental guidelines, there will be no five-point A-E scale used and the timeline has been extended to the end of August (Week 6 Term 3). Further information will be provided once the school has had the opportunity to determine what works best for our students.

The following information may answer any questions you might have:

How parents can help

- Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside the school gates. 'Drop and Go' in the mornings and wait separately in the afternoons at your families designated meeting place.
- Identify the allocated set gate for your child to exit from each day – don't forget to tell your child.
- Refrain from entering the school grounds as much as possible.
- Make sure your child/children have access to crunch n sip snack, recess and lunch each day. The canteen is currently closed.
- Please send a water bottle with your child. All bubblers have been disabled.
- Communicate with the school via telephone or email, wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children home if they are unwell.

If you require further clarification around your own circumstances, please don't hesitate to contact the school via telephone or email.

Thank you for your ongoing support at this time.

Annette Wein
Principal