



Congewai News

Newsletter

11 May 2020

Safety

Respect

Learning

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TERM 2 WEEK 3

- a proud member of the Cessnock Community of Great Public Schools

Diary Dates

Term 2

Week 3

Monday May 11

Lessons Commence

Week 10

Friday 3 July

Last Day of Term

Term 3

Week 1

Monday 20 July

Staff Development Day

Tuesday 21 July

Students Return



Library:

**Is on Thursdays,
please bring your
books**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,

Below is an outline of our procedures for return to school:

- In line with departmental guidelines, students are able to return to school from **Monday this week**. As our numbers are small, we are able to manage, with additional planning, all students returning **five days a week**.
- As such, if your child is not in attendance, you will need to contact the school to explain their absence.
- It remains the family's decision as to when and if students access the onsite face to face sessions
- Students will be placed **across the two classroom** settings with social distancing measures in place. Additional staffing arrangements will be put in place as necessary.
- All students will have their own table, chair and stationery which has been labelled/organised for their personal use only. All measures will be taken to ensure that there is no cross contamination throughout the day.
- **Additional cleaning** will take place throughout the day targeting tables-indoor and outdoor, and toilets and taps.
- Students and staff will be required to wash hands and sanitise regularly. Students will be required to wash hands immediately after arriving at school and before going into each learning session. Hand-washing will be supervised and supported. I would ask you to have a conversation about this so that they are aware and comfortable with the procedures.
- We will discuss social distancing with students and promote these processes throughout the day. This may be uncomfortable for students and again, I would ask you to have a gentle conversation with your kids to provide them with an understanding of this.
- Students will have eating and play time in the same groupings as in the classroom. We will monitor play to ensure social distancing. Unfortunately, at this stage, we will have to abstain from using play equipment, handballs etc. We will support play with alternative ideas if students are struggling.
- Student's **temperature (contactless thermometer) may be taken** and any student with an above normal temperature will have their family contacted and sent home. This also happens with all staff.
- **I would strongly urge you to keep your child at home if they are presenting with any signs of illness**. We have been directed that any student or staff member who presents with flu like symptoms will be asked to go home/stay home while seeking medical advice from their health practitioner. Any identified cases of COVID-19 will continue to be managed in line with health advice, including temporary school closures where necessary.
- Parents will be required to **drop off and say goodbye/stay in cars to collect**

in the carpark to avoid cross-over with other families.

- If you need to speak with staff, please call the school and we will either address any concerns over the phone or **make an appointment for a face to face meeting**.
- Please **return trays** and any other school materials when it is convenient (this may not be possible if your child is catching the bus).
- **All students are required to bring a drink bottle with their name clearly marked – no access to bubblers.**
- There will be NO canteen and no sharing of food.
- A reminder also for students to bring their hats on the first day.

Please talk to your children about the fact that their school day experience will look different for them.

PBL

We have had a very clear response to our survey regarding school values and will now implement these as our core values to which our school will strive for:

SAFETY, RESPECT, LEARNING

School expectations will be closely aligned to these values and taught as explicit lessons so that all students, staff and parents know and understand what we are aiming for to be the best we can be.

New Student Progress Reports

Over the coming days, I will be sending out an outline for a proposed new system of reporting to parents. Schools are responsible for reporting on each Key Learning Area at least twice a year. The plan I am proposing would allow us to report to parents each term for English and Mathematics, providing progress feedback in a timelier manner as well as providing students with goals in real time. These goals would be family friendly and promote all-important partnership learning. I will be seeking feedback on the proposed format and encourage you to discuss any suggestions or concerns you may have with the school.

As an incoming principal, I am wary about coming into a new school and making dramatic changes. However, where I feel that these changes are in the best interest of our students, I believe that any delay is detrimental to the success of the school.

School Maintenance

Our bushfire risk has been reduced this week through a school-wide clearing of foliage and debris. The site looks very neat. Mr Blake has been extremely busy re-organising the classrooms, installing lovely new pinboards purchased by Mrs Ferguson and removing obsolete technology.

Ms Zwirek has sprinkled her creative flare around the school, completing lots of little projects to brighten up our space. She will complete the platypus wall with students this week.

Staff have also been hard at work clearing and re-organising the inside spaces. A lot of unused materials have now been removed and repurposed giving the site a great lift.

General Reminder

Please ensure that students' names are on all belongings.

Staff

Mrs Stacey will work from home throughout her duration (until bub arrives) with us to ensure her health and safety. Mr Boughton hopes to return to Congewai when it is safe once again to do so. Additional staffing arrangements have been and will continue to be put in place to meet the needs of our school during Term 3.

Huge Thank You!

I cannot thank staff enough for their support over the past two weeks. Their patience in guiding me into my new role has been greatly appreciated and their devotion to students and families in supporting them throughout our period of remote learning has been incredible. We are a very fortunate school community to have such dedicated and caring staff.

I also thank all of you for the beautiful welcome I have been given. I so appreciate your kind words of support and the positivity you have all shown during challenging times.

Mrs Ferguson

Staff and students will be sending their warm wishes to Mrs Ferguson this week with a video message. I know how sad she was to be leaving this sweet little school. We wish her all the very best in her substantive position at Greta PS.

Melinda Stokes
Principal