

METELLA ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL

117-131 Metella Road Toongabbie NSW 2146 T 9636 1922 F 9896 3201 www.metellard-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



1 May 2020

COVID-19 – Return to School Phase 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Maintaining the health and wellbeing of our students, staff and school community is of utmost importance. In line with the Department of Education's guidelines, a phased approach is being used to allow us to slowly bring the school back to normal and reintroduce face-to-face teaching. This approach will mean there are a smaller number of students at school each day, providing more space to spread out. Students will initially attend school one day a week, and this will progressively increase throughout the term.

To ensure that our students are safe during the phased return to school, we have implemented a number of measures that are outlined below.

Learning Spaces

- Large learning spaces have been created to support social distancing.
- Only a single class will occupy each learning space on any one day.
- Stage groups will attend school together on different days of the week.
- Class groups will be kept together with their class teacher and peers.
- A map, details of the learning spaces and days on which students will attend school is attached.

Student drop off (morning)

- Social distancing guidelines must be observed.
- From 8:30am, students proceed to their allocated learning space. Preferred drop off time is 8:55am.
- Senior executive staff and School Learning Support Officers (SLSOs) will direct students to learning spaces from school gates.

Student pick up (afternoon)

- Social distancing guidelines must be observed.
- Parent and carers should not enter or congregate outside learning spaces.
- The school day officially ends at 3:00pm. Students will be dismissed to the playground (Years 1-6).
- Parents and carers must communicate with their child where they will meet them.
- Kindergarten students must be collected from their allocated learning space.
- To assist with social distancing, parents and carers have the option of picking up their child from 2:15pm. Pick up at this time is from your child's learning space.
- Parents are not required to sign their child out via the administration office.

Illness

- It is critical that any student who feels unwell does not attend school.
- If a student falls ill while at school, the student's parent/carer will be contacted and asked to collect their child.
- If the student's parent/carer is not available, the school will contact the student's emergency contact who will be asked to collect the child.

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Hygiene

- Resources have been developed by the Department of Education to explain good hygiene practices.
- Physical contact of students limited in the playground.
- Play equipment is not being utilised.
- Staggered play times.
- Students are required to wash their hands frequently with soap and water before and after eating and after going to the toilet.
- School signage has been increased.
- All learning spaces have been provided with hand sanitiser and additional provisions of soap and other hygiene products.
- Hours have been extended for cleaning to ensure high touch areas are cleaned regularly.

Canteen and Uniform Shop

- Information to be provided as soon as available.

Learning from home

- Learning from home will remain an integral component of the phased return.
- The school will operate in the dual mode of supervising a reduced number of students on site, and students at home.
- All students will continue to be given access to learning either online or with materials provided to them.

Once again, thank you for your support. At all times, Metella Road Public School remains open for students who need to attend and no child will be turned away. For further information, please see <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. D'Ermilio'.

Mr P. D'Ermilio
Principal