



# MANAGED RETURN TO SCHOOL PHASE 1 WEEK 4, 18 - 22 MAY



## SOLDIERS' SETTLEMENT PUBLIC SCHOOL

It was such a wonderful feeling to welcome more of our students back to school this week as we implemented Phase 1 of the managed return to school. The staff and I have really enjoyed reconnecting with the students and engaging in face to face learning activities.

It was evident in the faces of the students that they were so excited to be back at school with their peers and in the school environment. It really has affirmed for us that we love what we do and we really miss the connection with our students and the community.

We continue to have higher than expected numbers of students in attendance and recognise that more people are returning to work. We also appreciate that learning from home may not be possible for families all of the time. However, we do encourage you to keep your child home on their non-rostered day if at all possible.

The NSW Government has committed to the phased approach for the managed return to school. Next week we will continue with the same arrangements as this week. The expectation for next week is that students will again attend on their rostered day.

### Next Week's Arrangements

Similarly to this week, students will attend a face-to-face lesson with their own classroom teacher or a member of the teaching staff who is familiar to them on their allocated day. The allocated rostered day has been organised to allow students to engage in face-to-face lessons provided by their classroom teacher or a member of the teaching staff who is familiar to them.

### Phase 1 – Week 4, 18-22 May

MONDAY 18 May	TUESDAY 19 May	WEDNESDAY 20 May	THURSDAY 21 May	FRIDAY 22 May
Kindy and Year 3 Plus Essential attendance & Siblings	Year 1 Plus Essential attendance & Siblings	Year 5 and Year 6 Plus Essential attendance & Siblings	Year 2 and Year 4 Plus Essential attendance & Siblings	Mixed Group attendance (Essential workers and those who cannot learn from home)

Students learning either at home or at school on their non-rostered days should continue to engage in learning experiences either online or on paper provided by their teachers. Practical resources and guides to help students learning from home are available at the department's Learning from home hub. <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/advice-toparentsand-carers>

### Please Note:

Children who attend school on a day that is not their rostered day will attend the mixed group class with a member of the teaching staff. In the mixed group attendance class, students will continue to work either on their 'one unit' learning from home plan online or on paper. There will be no face-to-face instruction in these classes. This grade-based organisation will also provide an opportunity for students to engage in a face-to-face wellbeing check in with their teacher and social interactions with their stage or grade peers.

### Access to the school

The DET guidelines currently state that all non-essential visitors/parents/adults to the school site is discouraged at this time. Parents/carers should only access the school when there a genuine need to do so e.g. collecting home learning packs or handing in enrolment papers etc. Parents/carers can telephone the school office between 8.30am and 3.15pm or email the school office for enquiries.

The current arrangements for morning drop off and afternoon pick up is working really well. Thank you so much to our parents/carers for ensuring that social distancing protocols are followed during drop off and pick up. It's greatly appreciated.

## Please note that the Finucane gate Drop off and Pick up is a Kids only zone!



### Morning Drop off:

- Finucane gate will be open between 8.30am and 9.15am.
- A member of staff will greet you and your child at the Finucane gate.
- Parents are asked not to linger in the park and to leave ASAP.
- Please observe social and physical distancing requirements.
- Arrivals after 9.15am should be via the main Menin Road gate.
- Parents/carers are asked to drop children at the office if they arrive after 9.15am. Please leave the school grounds as soon as possible.
- Please do not enter the school through the carpark gates after 8.30am.

### Afternoon pick up:

- Finucane gate will be open from 2.50pm – 3.10pm.
- A member of staff will say farewell to you and your child at the Finucane gate.
- Please observe social and physical distancing requirements and do not linger in the park.

## Canteen

Our canteen will be closed for the remainder of the term. Please make sure that your child brings their lunch, recess and a drink bottle to school every day.

## Drink bottles

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our bubblers are currently out of use. Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle to school every day labelled clearly with their name.

## Support for students and families

We are living in different times and we noticed this week that some of our students were a little anxious about returning to school whilst others returned with enthusiasm. This also applies to all of our parents and carers. The staff and I will be on the lookout for any students (or adults), who require some extra support. As always, the staff and I are here for you and your children if you need reassurance or if you have concerns about your child's transition back to school during this time. We also have a new counsellor, Marilyn Sheens who is also available via an online platform to provide support to families on Mondays.

If you would like to make contact with the school counsellor, please contact your child's teacher or our school office and a member of our learning support team will be in touch.

I expect advice from the Department of Education around Phase 2 of the managed return, to be communicated soon and will keep you informed about arrangements as they are provided to me.

These unprecedented times have presented many challenges for all of us but it has also brought out the best in many of us. I am humbled by the kindness and words of encouragement from our community to myself and the staff. I am thankful for the support of a wonderful staff who have gone above and beyond to make our school a warm and welcoming space for your children and for each other. Thank you again for your kindness and words of encouragement.

I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you next week!

Best wishes to you all.

*Polly*



## SOCIAL DISTANCING – REPEATED INFORMATION



### **How many children will be at school each day?**

We have looked at the numbers of children in each grade and stage and matched the number of possible siblings who will also attend on each day. We have also assessed the number of students who have been required to come to school daily and we estimate that we will have somewhere between 28% and 40% of our whole school student population at school on any given day.

### **How are you following the social distancing recommendations at school?**

We will be using 12 classrooms, and the hall to accommodate the students in smaller groups distanced across the school.

- Students will be directed to classrooms upon arrival from 8:30 onwards and will not be permitted to gather on the playground to prevent the mix of students across stages.
- We ask parents/carers to continue to use the Finucane Reserve gate for drop off and pick up. A member of staff will be located at the Finucane Reserve gate between 8.30am – 9.15am and again at 2.505pm – 3.10pm.
- Classes will commence at 9:00am
- Classroom seating has been reorganised to ensure a safe space between children and between children and staff.
- Arrangements have been made for staff to participate in meetings and use the staff room with strict adherence to social distancing practices.

### **What happens with outside play?**

- Grades will be separated into grade specific groups and areas of the playground will be allocated to each grade until further notice;
- Traditional lunchtime games such as football, basketball, soccer and tips are not permitted until further notice;
- Students will be provided with ideas for play options that encourage observance of social distancing.
- The play equipment and sandpit are closed until further notice.
- Children are not permitted to bring toys/play equipment from home

## **HYGIENE PRACTICES.**

### **How will the school manage my child's Hygiene?**

- Every child will wash their hands with soap and water on entering and leaving the classroom and after visits to the toilet;
- Students will be required to wash their hands before and after eating.
- Students will participate in lessons explicitly teaching good hand washing practices.
- Hand sanitiser is located in every classroom, learning space, office and staffroom.
- Students will be required to bring a water bottle from home. The school bubblers are not to be used.
- All computers and electronic devices are cleaned with sanitiser and antiseptic wipes every day. Students will be assigned their own device for the day.
- We have been allocated additional cleaning time to allow for cleaners to attend to more precise cleaning daily.
- Unfortunately we are unable to allow the students to borrow library books at this time;

**To limit the sharing of resources between students, we have put together resource packs for every student. The pack includes an assortment of:**

**Lead and coloured pencils, ruler, eraser, workbook, maths manipulatives, tissues, scissors and glue. This pack will remain at school until we are advised that COVID-19 restrictions are eased.**