



Thursday 21 May 2020

Return to School Next Week

Monday's news announcement came as a surprise to us all. Apparently a member of cabinet leaked the information to the media and the announcement was made before we knew anything or could inform our community. I apologise for any confusion you may have had about this, but since the return to school information was released on Tuesday we have been busy organising the logistics and processes we will use to ensure we make this transition as smooth as possible. Listed below is information relating to your role in ensuring we keep Forestville students and our community and staff as safe as we can.

School Entry

At the Darley Road and Melwood Avenue gates you will be greeted by staff from 8.30am. We ask that no students and parents/carers enter before this time unless they are attending Ooshcare. Kindergarten and Year 1 teachers will be present at both gates so there is a familiar face for our younger students. Students will enter the school independently and the staff will ensure they are cared for and taken to the classroom/playground. **All years 2-6 MUST enter the school independently.** Please avoid bringing students from years 2-6 to the gate at Darley Road but rather allow them to cross with the crossing supervisor or give them a goodbye hug 20-50m from the school and let them walk in independently. We don't need a large crowd at the gate.

School Exit

All students 2-6 will exit the school independently, unless they are attending Ooshcare or catching a bus. Please arrange a location for your child/ren to meet you away from the school gate as we do not want a crowd of parents/carers outside the school. The crossing supervisor will be at Darley Road and we will have a staff member at Melwood Avenue.

Parents/Carers of Kindergarten and Year 1 students have several choices: Please explain which one you will be doing to your child so they are not confused or concerned.

- Have an older sibling pick up the Year K or Year 1 student at 3.00pm from their classroom and escort them to the designated pick up location away from the gate. Please let the teacher know if this is your choice.
- If attending Ooshcare or catching the bus remain with the classroom teacher until 3.00pm where they will be escorted to the right location.
- Be picked up using social distancing measures at staggered finishing times with just one parent/carer entering the playground via the school gates:

KF and 1Y – 2.30pm

KR, KH and 1A – 2.40pm

KS and 1HM – 2.50pm

If picking up your child from **Darley Road** using these staggered finishing times please follow the social distancing measures the school will have in place. You will be met by a staff member at the gate and given directions where to meet your child. If picking up your K or 1 student using the Melwood Avenue entrance, please enter and exit the school promptly and follow the social distancing measures we have in place. This is to protect us all moving forward with this phase of the return to school.

- If you have problems following any of the above suggestions please contact your classroom teacher or the school so we can assist you.

Canteen

The canteen will be open for Munch Monitor orders only (for morning tea and lunch orders, no iceblocks available). There will be no over the counter service available, as we do not want any students lining up at the canteen. This system for ordering will be in place for 2 weeks from 25 May – 5 June.

Bubblers

Please ensure your child has a filled water bottle with them every day as the bubblers are currently closed.

Winter Uniform

All students will transition to Winter Uniform from 1 June, however, if you would like your child to return next week, 25 May, in winter uniform this is also acceptable.

Dance

Our Dance program will continue for our K-2 students, so please ensure you send your child in their sports uniform on the designated day. Classroom teachers will let you know which day the uniform is required.

Sport

At this point in time the Department's instructions are that all sport is to be non-contact and focus on skill building and games in class or smaller groups. Our Stage teams and teachers will ensure you are aware of which day your child/ren needs to wear their sport uniform.

Second Hand Clothing

Our office staff will be opening the uniform shop on Wednesday morning between 8.30am and 9.30am for parents needing uniforms. Please email the school and you will be given an appointment time.

Devices loaned to students

Please return all loaned devices (Laptops and iPads) to the office by the morning of Tuesday 26 May as we need to use them in classrooms.

Library

The library programs and lessons will commence again next week so please remember to return any resources that have been borrowed so that new ones can be loaned.

Band and Strings

There is a modified band and strings program in place for the next 2 weeks. Only the conductors are being allowed access to the school site and are being supported by staff.

During this phase of the return to school there will be:

- no assemblies
- no excursions or incursions
- no inter-school competitions, sport or activities
- no parent or community volunteers on site
- no access to the canteen other than Munch Monitor orders.
- no use of school facilities out of hours - unless using Ooshcare or attending Band or Strings.

Contact with the school.

Please endeavour to use online forms of communication to liaise with staff or the school. Teachers or staff will communicate with you via email, Seesaw or by phone. Please only come on site if you need to see a staff member or go to the office, and also try not to make this in the rush hours at the beginning and end of the days. Please try to arrange a time to meet with the staff member first, as this pre-empts them providing the time for you, unless of course there is an emergency.

Some students will find the return to school for the whole week very tiring, as they have been learning from home for a long time now. Some will be excited, some will be anxious and some will feel like it's the beginning of a new year. We understand that this transition from one day a week to the full week has been very swift, and as such we will ensure students are supported and are eased into the full week of learning. It's another change for us all and allowing flexibility, while understanding every child's perspective, will be the key to this being successful for all of our students and their families.

These arrangements have been designed to make this transition as effective and as simple as possible. We want to work with you to ensure the safety of every member of our community while safeguarding the wellbeing of our students and staff. Our whole community have been incredibly supportive and helpful during the COVID-19 period and we truly appreciate the open lines of communication and ongoing positive response we receive from you. Please email the school at forestvill-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au should you have any concerns and we will get back to you as soon as we are able.

Kind regards

Louisa Wellings

Principal (Relieving)