



# BANKSTOWN NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL

**Innovation, Opportunity, Excellence, Success**

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15 October 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please read the following information carefully:

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October** (Week 3/Term 4) school resumes for all students in **Kindergarten and Year 1 ONLY!**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October** (Week 4/Term 4) school resumes for all students in **Years 2 to 6.**

There will be **NO MORE REMOTE LEARNING** for students after the above dates. Students are expected to return to school on the above dates - those students who do not return will be marked as absent unless you have a doctor's certificate providing a valid reason for not attending school. In addition, I will be contacting the parents of students who do not return and following up with parent meetings with the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO).

Bankstown North Public School is currently a Level 3 Plus school. However, please be aware that we could return to a Level 4 at any given time depending on reported COVID cases. If this occurs, you will be notified immediately on Seesaw and your child will need to remain at home until further notice. Our teachers will once again recommence online learning until we are informed that we have returned to Level 3 Plus. The NSW Health Department have advised that we could be in and out of Level 3 Plus and Level 4 throughout Term 4. Even though the vaccination rates have increased dramatically in the Canterbury/Bankstown LGA, the reported infection rates are still considered to be high.

The department has updated its pages with detailed guidance for parents and carers about what will happen should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19 at school and students are identified as a close or casual contact. All schools have COVID-safe plans and are taking precautions to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission on-site. This includes enhanced cleaning two times a day in all schools in line with the latest advice from NSW Health and SafeWork Australia. It is important to note that medical advice suggests transmission among children is lower and when they do catch COVID they generally only have mild symptoms.

## **CONTACT TRACING**

NSW Health will notify the school if there is a positive COVID-19 case who has been infectious while at school and we will, in turn, notify parents and carers. Contact tracing will be undertaken as it is in all other venues. The action we take will in relation to the operation of the school will depend on how many people the person has been in contact with. In some cases, this may mean that the school may need to be made temporality non-operational. Some staff and students may be asked to self-isolate as a precaution while contact tracing is completed.

## **SELF-ISOLATION**

NSW Health have made changes to self-isolation requirements for people who are identified as close contacts who are fully vaccinated.

- **Close contacts** who are fully vaccinated must self-isolate for 7 days (and limit their movements for the next 7 days). Close contacts who are not vaccinated must isolate for 14 days.
- **Casual contacts** need to get tested and self-isolate until they get a negative test result - even if they are vaccinated.

A reminder that anyone who has the mildest of COVID-19 symptoms **must get tested immediately** and self-isolate until they get a negative result - even if they're vaccinated.

### **VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS**

I want to let you all know that from 18 October, all staff onsite required to support the staged return of students will need to be fully vaccinated. You can have confidence that we are handling the evidence requirements with the department and anyone interacting directly with your students will be fully vaccinated. The only exception is staff supporting Out of School Hours Care who are required to be vaccinated from 8 November.

There may be some staff members who are not yet fully vaccinated or who have an approved medical exemption to not be vaccinated that we are still undertaking a risk assessment around. For this reason, some classes may be covered by another teacher. We appreciate your understanding and the need to ensure staff privacy is protected.

COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and also reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19 to others. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 now will help to protect both you, your family and our school community.

NSW Health are urging all students 12 and over to get vaccinated with the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible before returning to school.

### **MASKS**

It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that **ALL STUDENTS WEAR A MASK** while inside the classroom. Masks will be provided in every classroom along with hand sanitiser. The school has ample supplies of both. Teachers will be teaching students the appropriate way in which to wear a mask and they will be encouraging children to change their masks regularly throughout the day.

### **VENTILATION IN SCHOOLS**

Ventilation is an important layer of support under COVID-safe operations alongside vaccinations, mask wearing, reducing mingling across year groups and good cleaning and hygiene. The department's ventilation recommendations have been informed by NSW Health advice, expert advice from the Doherty Institute and the World Health Organisation.

This advice tells us that maximising natural ventilation in our learning spaces is the most effective method for minimising the spread of COVID-19 as it is a very effective way to disperse particles in the air. This can be best achieved by opening doors and windows.

To maximise our school's readiness for the return of students and staff, the department also conducted a statewide review of all windows, fans, and ventilation systems to ensure schools can operate them as intended.

The audit confirms most spaces in schools can be adequately ventilated through natural and mechanically assisted ventilation. We are taking action and working with our local Asset Management team to make sure classes can go ahead within the advice received on ventilation for our school. The intent of the individual school ventilation audit reports is to enable our local Asset Management teams to work with schools to discuss our individual spaces and confirm settings on our sites. We are taking action and working with our local Asset Management team to make sure classes can go ahead within the advice received on ventilation for our school.

### **DROP OFF AND PICK UP**

**From Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October** we ask parents to continue to drop off and pick up from outside of school gates. Parents, when waiting, we ask that you adhere to the social distancing recommendations of 1.5m distances and wear a mask.

**Students who walk home from school independently**, or with a brother or sister who attend our school, **will not be dismissed until 3pm** and are permitted to leave with their brother or sister **through the back gate only on Hume Highway (near the Vet).**

### **NO PARENTS ARE PERMITTED ON SCHOOL SITE.**

If you need to come to the school for whatever reason, you are to phone the school office and a staff member will meet you at the school gate.

There will be **no whole school assemblies**. Instead, students will have class assemblies to receive awards.

### **KISS AND DROP**

When using Kiss and Drop, please remember to stay in your car and display your Kiss and Drop number. Parents and carers who are not registered for Kiss and Drop, please contact the school office so a registration can be organised. **Kiss and Drop will commence at 2.30pm for ES1 (Kindergarten) and will be moving in 10 minute intervals.** Please do not arrive before this time as you could be issued with an infringement notice by NSW Police.

### **THE FOLLOWING PROCESS WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO WITH NO EXCEPTIONS!**

#### **Morning Arrivals:**

- **Beresford Avenue gate will be open from 8.30am.** NB: Hume Highway gate will remain closed of a morning.
- Parents are to drop off at the gate and leave
- K-2 students will assemble in the COLA; 3-6 students will assemble on the Oval

#### **Afternoon Departures:**

- **Beresford Avenue is to be used for Kiss and Drop only** and is to be used strictly by those parents who are registered for Kiss and Drop.
- Parents are **not to enter the school grounds**, but students will be brought to you by a teacher.
- **Kiss and Drop, Back Gate (near vet) and Hume Highway crossing will operate between 2.30-3pm** in the following timetable:
  - **Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) and older siblings:** 2.30pm
  - **Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and older siblings:** 2.40pm
  - **Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) and older siblings:** 2.50pm
  - **Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6)** 3.00pm

**If you are running late, please call and inform the school. You will need to pick up your child at 3pm from Kiss and Drop.**

**THERE WILL BE NO CANTEEN NEXT WEEK** when Kindergarten and Year 1 return. Parents will need to provide recess, lunch, and snack items.

**The canteen will operate from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October** when all student return. All food and drinks need to be **ordered PREFERABLY ONLINE before 9.30am** including recess food items, as the canteen will not be open at recess or lunch for casual food purchases. Parents can download the Flexischools App to place canteen orders. If you require assistance, please contact Marissa Saad (canteen manager). Orders made at school will be done by placing the recess/lunch order in the basket provided in the classroom. These orders will then be taken to the canteen by a staff member.

**ALL BUBBLERS WILL BE TURNED OFF.** Students are required to bring their own water bottle or purchase bottled water from the canteen.

Students are expected to be in **FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM. THIS INCLUDES BLACK SCHOOL SHOES.** Parents are reminded that uniforms should only be purchased from our uniform supplier ie: Yeronga School Uniforms. **Articles of clothing bought from Lowes, Kmart or Big W ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE!** Please see me if you have any concerns with payment.

If you borrowed a school laptop, **can you please return them to school by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October** so they can be cleaned and ready for students to use at school.

If your child has any COVID symptoms, we ask for you to keep them at home and get them tested. Students will not be allowed back at school without a **NEGATIVE** result. Any students experiencing any of the following symptoms will be sent home and asked to be tested. Symptoms include:

- fever (37.5 degrees celsius or higher)
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath (difficulty breathing)
- runny nose
- loss of taste
- loss of smell

Finally, we will be asking students to bring their own equipment to school. This will ensure that students are not sharing equipment. Please make sure all items are labelled with your child's name and are replenished as needed.

As our sporting equipment is being sanitised after every use, **we ask that children do not bring any sport equipment or toys to school.**

#### Kindergarten

|                                              |                                       |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Glue sticks                                | • HB grip lead pencils (good quality) |
| • Good quality grip coloured pencils         | • Scissors                            |
| • Whiteboard markers                         | • Twisty crayons                      |
| • Small clean sock (to be used as an eraser) |                                       |

#### Stage 1 (Years 1 & Year 2)

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Glue sticks                   | • HB lead pencils (good quality) |
| • Eraser                        | • Twisty crayons                 |
| • Good quality coloured pencils | • Scissors                       |
| • Whiteboard markers            |                                  |

#### Stages 2 & 3 (Years 3 to 6)

|                                            |                      |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Blue pens (fine or medium)               | • Eraser             |
| • Red pens (fine or medium)                | • Pencil sharpener   |
| • Lead pencils (not pacers)                | • Scissors           |
| • Highlighters - various colours           | • Glue sticks        |
| • Textas                                   | • Coloured pencils   |
| • Ruler (with millimetres and centimetres) | • Whiteboard markers |

#### **STAFF CHANGES TERM 4**

Mrs Iris Tzavaras will be taking leave for the remainder of Term 4. Kindergarten Blue will be taught by Mrs Madeline Ricchiuti (Monday-Wednesday) and Ms Esra Genc (Thursday and Friday).

If you have any further questions after reading the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on 9709 5506.

Kind regards,



**Jon Godwin**  
**Principal**