

# Freemans Reach Public School

## Newsletter

Term 2 Week 2

5 April 2020



### Upcoming Events

#### TERM 2

All Events CANCELLED until further notice.



#### SCHOOL ENEWS AND FACEBOOK

Due to the constantly changing environment we live in, please continue to regularly check School Enews and Facebook for important updates.



### *From the Principal's Desk ...*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, it certainly has been a strange start to the new term. I would like to thank all of those parents and carers who have kept their child/ren home from school if they have been in a position to. We want nothing more than to get school life back to normal.

#### ABSENCES

Just a reminder that our Phase 1 Return to School Model will be implemented from Monday 11 May, with students returning one day per week. The school has had a number of phone calls from families stating that, at this time, they do not wish to send their children to school due to the possible risks. This is absolutely a family decision and one that is respected. Students are invited to attend on their nominated day. However this is up to the parents/carers, our online learning will continue through this time. As long as there is evidence of your child/ren learning from home (logging in to Google Classroom and submitting work, or handing in work at the office), your child will be recorded on the roll as **Flexible Schooling**. If your child is sick and unable to complete work for that day, please communicate this with your child's classroom teacher or at the office; your child will then be recorded on the roll as **Absent-sick** and no work will be required of them on that day. If they are not sick and there is no evidence of learning online or with paper copies, they will be recorded **Absent-unjustified**. Thank you for your continued support with this government requirement.

#### A PART OF HISTORY...

This moment we are all part of living history. Our children are all part of this, and it will be talked about for generations to come, maybe in the same breath as the Great Depression. Schools are offering minimal face to face teaching or are closing, sports and concerts are cancelled, people are quarantined.....on a GLOBAL level. I think the best thing your children can do is to keep a journal over the next 5-10 weeks. Handwritten, typed, in photographs or drawings....record events, day to day activities, fears and feelings. Let them make a video journal if that's the media they prefer. As parents, let them interview you and be part of it. When it's all over, save or store it in a safe place for them. They then may want to keep it to show their children or grandchildren. Help them create a tangible, primary historical source of their own history.

#### HOW SHOULD I TALK TO MY CHILD ABOUT COVID-19?

You can help your child by remaining calm and reassuring them. Listen to your child and answer their questions as honestly as possible and correct any misunderstandings. This will help them feel informed and understand what is happening. Stay up to date with the facts from reliable sources so you can keep conversations calm, considered, and constructive. Provide information in words that are appropriate to the age of your child. Children can be distressed by hearing repeated stories so monitor how much your child is being exposed to television and social media and encourage them to talk to you about what they are seeing and hearing.

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Relieving Principal: Lisa McGrath

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## **A PHASED RETURN TO SCHOOL MODEL** (As previously communicated)

During the term break, the NSW State Government announced a Phased Return to School Model which will be implemented in Term 2. Freemans Reach Public School's Phase 1 Plan has been made with a great deal of consideration of all possible grouping options and is a balance between accommodating families and siblings, the social aspect for students and their learning. Local schools will implement this model differently to suit their own contexts. Your child/ren's teachers desperately want to teach their own classes during this face-to-face model. I believe this is what is best for our students too.

### **PHASE 1**

**From Monday 11 May (Week 3, Term 2)**- All students will begin to attend school one day per week. If you would prefer to keep your child/ren at home during Phase 1, please negotiate this with either myself or the classroom teacher.

On the timetabled day your child/ren attend school, they will be taught by their own teacher. Teachers will continue to deliver one single unit of work for online and onsite students. After the 2-3 hours of online work is completed, teachers will supplement the learning day with other areas such as Art, Music, Dance, Physical Education and Personal Development. Our support staff will also be involved in the students' school day. These include a Library, STEM and Physical Education lessons. Teachers who are not working face-to-face with students will be providing support and programming to students learning from home.

Each class is divided into half. Careful considerations have gone into this division. We are fortunate to have double sized classrooms once concertina folding doors are opened. This double learning space will be shared between two classes over four days. The teachers will teach their entire class over the two timetabled days. Please see the table below.

Last Friday we posted (yes, old fashioned snail mail) attendance days for your child/ren. It is a special letter, addressed to your child/ren personally. Written in this letter, will be one of the two days indicated in the table below for their class. Due to privacy reasons, I will not publicly list which students are placed on individual days of the week for their class. As teachers make phone contact with families, they can also give you this information. Siblings have been placed on the same days where possible. If you need adjustments to the allocated day due to serious personal circumstances, please let the school know by **Thursday 7 May**, so we can make accommodations for your family.

Class	KC with Miss Cash	1J with Mrs Jurd	2C with Miss Celeban	3/4L with Mr Lobb	3/4R with Mrs Ripa	5/6A with Miss Ayoub	5/6M with Mrs Mitchell
Days teaching face to face	Monday Group & Tuesday Group	Monday Group & Wednesday Group	Tuesday Group & Thursday Group	Tuesday Group & Thursday Group	Monday Group & Wednesday Group	Monday Group & Wednesday Group	Tuesday Group & Thursday Group
Teaching location	KC/2C double classroom	LaST/STEM double classroom	LaST/STEM double classroom	34L/34R double classroom	34L/34R double classroom	56A/56M double classroom	56A/56M double classroom

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **P&C Meetings**

I am in regular communication with our P&C President and have been providing up to date information about our implementation of the Department of Education's return to school. At this stage, we will not be holding P&C meetings onsite as we continue to limit the amount of adults on the premises as per NSW Health advice. I would like to thank the P&C, for their very kind donation of \$5000 towards our Library Improvements. These improvements include the purchase of new books, new picture book display rails, swivel book stands for novels, plastic book displays for series novels and authors, new mushroom stools (seating), and printed blinds that will be placed behind the workroom windows. We are all very excited about raising our Library's profile and engagement for our students and staff. Watch this space!

**Children of Essential workers**- These children are still able to attend school every day when needed. They will continue to be supervised by our support staff on the days that their own class teacher is not on face-to-face teaching. This will be the same for both Phases 1 and 2.

**School Starting and finishing times**- These will not change for our school.

**Additional/Alternative Learning packs**- We understand online learning is not suited to every family. Teachers have been making regular contact with families and some have arranged supplementary booklets to support students who are identified as requiring additional Learning Support. These pre-arranged Learning Support packs will be available for collection in front of the school main office, in class 'Boomerang Boxes'.

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**Technology Devices-** If your child has borrowed a school device, we request these devices come with them to school each day they attend. We simply do not have enough devices to cover both learning environments.

**Before School-** A ‘Kiss and Drop off’ at the main school gate is now implemented. Please drop off your child/ren at Kurmond Road at the main school gate in the bus bay area. To limit the number of adults on site as we practise social distancing, I am requesting that parents do not come onto school grounds in the morning. This is so disappointing but necessary.

**After School-** In the afternoons we request you discuss with your child/ren a designated meeting place **inside** the school grounds in the usual asphalt area and practise social distancing. Thank you for not gathering inside or outside the school gates for extended periods.

**Canteen-** In the Department of Education’s Return to School Guidelines, it states that school canteens will be operational. However, our canteen is run by parent volunteers and not an external company. Therefore, our canteen will not be open for lunch orders during Weeks 1-2 (Phase 0) or Weeks 3-6 approximately (Phase 1). Our amazing staff want some special treats for their students and will operate the canteen themselves for minimal over-the-counter items for sale at recess. I thank them immensely for this initiative. I will communicate more about this once we finalise arrangements.

**P&C Uniform Shop-** In the Department of Education’s Return to School Guidelines, it states that school uniform shops will be operational. However, our Uniform Shop is run by our fabulous P&C volunteers and not an external company. Therefore, our Uniform Shop will be closed until further notice. You will be able to place urgent orders through the front office if need be.

## PHASE 2

When the school moves to Phase 2, students are timetabled to attend school two days a week. By then, I anticipate we can have an increased number of people in a double classroom.

Class	KC with Miss Cash	1J with Mrs Jurd	2C with Miss Celeban	3/4L with Mr Lobb	3/4R with Mrs Ripa	5/6A with Miss Ayoub	5/6M with Mrs Mitchell
Days teaching face to face	Monday & Tuesday	Monday & Wednesday	Tuesday & Thursday	Tuesday & Thursday	Monday & Wednesday	Monday & Wednesday	Tuesday & Thursday
Teaching location	KC/2C double classroom	LaST/STEM double classroom	LaST/STEM double classroom	34L/34R double classroom	34L/34R double classroom	56A/56M double classroom	56A/56M double classroom

Again, if you need adjustments to the allocated day due to serious personal circumstances, please let the school know by **Thursday 7 May**, so we can make accommodations for your family. More information regarding this Phase 2 approach will be communicated to the school community once it has been determined. There is no time frame for when we will move to Phase 2, 3 or 4 of the Department’s Phased Plan. This could happen at any time during the term and possibly at short notice. As a community, we need to be aware of this. Certainly, if circumstances change with the COVID19 pandemic, there is a possibility of reverting back to our Phase 0 Plan (currently running). We will continue to follow the advice of NSW Health.

**Safe Hygiene Practices-** In classrooms, we will continue to teach and reinforce washing hands with soap and water, arms-length social distancing, cough etiquette etc.

**Recess and Lunch-** Accommodations will be made to implement social distancing for students during break times. The playground equipment will remain closed until further notice. We have different sporting equipment bundles which are rotated during the week to enable time between usage in line with the recommendations while still encouraging physical activity.

**Cleaning-** Additional cleaning is taking place at the school and includes extra cleaning and sterilisation of ‘touch zones.’ These include toilet areas, doors and handles, light switches, computers, keyboards, bubblers (though we encourage all students to bring their own water bottle), tables and benchtops, sinks and taps. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our cleaner, Lenore Marsh, who has been working extra hours in her own time, even before the current lockdown or allocated provisions were made by the government. She has certainly been amazing.

**Semester One Reports-** What will they look like? The short answer is, I don’t know yet. The long answer is that learning is continuing, even if schools are delivering the curriculum in a different way. Students are submitting work, and teachers are still collecting evidence of student learning. This evidence will be used to determine students’ achievement. Teachers will use evidence of student online learning and from paper copies, to make a judgement on where they fit against the curriculum outcomes. This is a much better way of assessing students (formative assessment), as it allows students to demonstrate what they know through a range of activities over time rather than rely on a small number of high stakes tests or exams and marks from those exams (summative assessment).

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## **TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILDREN AS THEY ENGAGE IN ONLINE LEARNING FROM HOME**

The following suggestions have been designed to help you manage your child's learning at home. We understand how hard it can be to balance the support we give to assist learning and encouraging, inquisitive learning. These ideas may help you help them.

- Setting up a regular routine that your child agrees with makes them accountable for the activities that have been set for the day. These can include activities set by the teacher and by you and in whatever order suits them. We do advise that activities relating to English and Maths are done in the first part of the day.
- Follow the timetable that the teacher has designed as best you can, as this will ensure that their learning stays on track.
- Maths and English are important as the skills they learn in these subjects are transferrable in all other subjects.
- Hands-on activities are often the best way to get all students engaged in learning. Whenever you can, use concrete materials that have been provided or the ones around your house. For example dice, cards, coins etc.
- If your child is struggling to stay motivated, take a short break and engage in a physical activity.
- Make sure that the learning environment is free of any distraction or noise if possible. It is important that your child is not in the bedroom, as that should be a place to relax and sleep.
- If you find your child is struggling to do the work with little input from you, it is important that you communicate this with your teacher. Alternatively, if the work seems to be easy, contact your teacher as well.
- A reward system can also be a way of keeping them on track. Rewards can be negotiated and don't have to cost anything. It could be extra game time, getting excused from a chore for the day or even starting or finishing the day ½ an hour earlier or later, baking their favourite treats etc.
- Starting the day off by listening to a session on smiling minds (a free mindfulness APP) <https://www.smilingmind.com.au/> this can help prepare everyone for the day.

I have said this for some time now. School work is important but not URGENT. It is perfectly okay to sit, snuggle and watch a movie. Our children show their anxiety in many ways. They hear a lot more than we think they do but they process things differently. Reassure them that they are perfectly fine, and it is normal to feel a bit worried. Wellbeing of children and adults MUST always be a priority BEFORE learning outcomes. I feel very strongly about this.

Let's hope we get back to normal very soon.

The staff and I at Freemans Reach Public School will continue to support you and keep you informed as much as possible through these challenging times. Thank you for your continued support of us. I recognise your sacrifices and appreciate everything you are

doing for our community.

Stay calm, stay safe and stay connected.

Kind Regards

Lisa McGrath  
Relieving Principal



## **SCHOOL CANTEEN - UPDATE**

Staff will be opening the canteen from Tuesday 12 May for counter sales and RECESS NACHOS ORDERS only. The canteen will be open for this RECESS order and counter sales for **Tuesday-Thursday of Week 3** and **Monday-Thursday of Week 4** as well.

If your child/ren would like to order a RECESS NACHO (snack serve), please write their name and class on a lunch bag, along with \$1.50. Please send it to the office of that morning.

## **SCHOOL BANKING - RESOURCES**

Here are some handy online resources to support parents during this time:

- Start Smart: this program offers a range of age appropriate digital resources including videos and worksheets initially developed to assist teachers in the classroom. The aim of Start Smart is to motivate and inspire students and give them the confidence and skills to make smart decisions about money. All Start Smart lessons are aligned to the Australian Curriculum and the National Consumer Financial Literacy Framework.
- The Beanstalk: this resource provides a range of activities for primary-aged students to help them learn about money and saving. There are tips and videos for parents to help teach their children about money.



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**PHASE 0****Schools are open for families who need it.**

■ **At all times**  
Schools are safe places for students, teachers and staff.

■ All students engage with a single unit of work.

■ Keep up-to-date with your school's communications to make sure you receive important messages about timetable changes.

■ Any identified cases of COVID-19 will continue to be managed in line with health advice, including temporary school closures where necessary.

**Learning from home**

Practical resources and guides to support students are available at the department's [Learning from home hub](#).

**PHASE 1****Students at school at least one day per week.**

- Schools have discretion for establishing which group attends on which day, with a preference to group siblings/families together.
- Families who need to send their child to school every day may continue to do so and no child will be turned away.
- Classes are split across different spaces and break times can be staggered.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

**You can now**

- Send your child/children to school one day a week.
- You are encouraged to keep your child at home for the rest of the week wherever possible.
- Check with your school to see which day of the week your child/children should attend.
- Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place.

**You must continue to**

- Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so.
- Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates.
- Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage.
- Support your child/children to continue learning at home on remote learning days.
- Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell.

**PHASE 2****Students at school at least two days per week.**

- Schools have discretion for establishing which group attends on which days, with a preference to group siblings/families together.
- Families who need to send their child to school every day may continue to do so and no child will be turned away.
- Classes are split across different spaces and break times can be staggered.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

**You can now**

- Send your child/children to school two days a week.
- You are encouraged to keep your child at home for the rest of the week wherever possible.
- Check with your school to see which two days of the week your child/children should attend.
- Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place.

**You must continue to**

- Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so.
- Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates.
- Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage.
- Support your child/children to continue learning at home on remote learning days.
- Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell.

**PHASE 3****Students at school five days per week, with social distancing measures.**

- Students with increased health risks may continue to learn at home to suit their individual needs.
- Students remain in the same classroom for the day, break times can be staggered to reduce mixing between class groups.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

**You can now**

- Send your child/children to school every day.
- Access community services run on school sites, where they are not restricted by Public Health Orders.
- Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place.
- Walk your child/children into and out of school while maintaining social distancing.

**You must continue to**

- Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so.
- Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates.
- Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage.
- Support your child/children to continue to learn at home if they are required to learn remotely.
- Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell.

**PHASE 4****Students at school five days per week, with full school activities.**

- Normal school breaks and entry/exit processes will resume.
- Infection control procedures will continue on a school by school basis.
- Communication to staff, students and families regarding NSW Health advice will continue.
- Continued communication to the Early Childhood Education sector regarding NSW Health Advice.

**You can now**

- Send your child/children to school every day.
- Participate in school excursions and inter-school activities.
- Use playground equipment at schools.
- Drop your child/children off at school as you would normally do.
- Participate in school based activities such as volunteering in classes and assemblies.
- Use services that usually operate at your school like canteens and other community run activities.

# A managed return to school

**Guidelines for families**