

Freemans Reach Public School

Newsletter

Term 2 Week 4

19 May 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,

It has been a very successful few weeks as it was great to have so many more students back at school for their one day at least. I know that they enjoyed catching up with their teacher and working in their classrooms. I'd like to thank all of our parents and carers for their amazing support over the past 10 weeks. We have had wonderful positive feedback and constructive feedback about the online lessons and this has been very much appreciated and respected. Our staff have been working tirelessly to plan lessons, teach online and make contact with every student. Our admin and support staff have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure we are doing as much as we can to support our families during these unprecedented times.

STUDENTS' RETURN TO FULL-TIME SCHOOL

There has been a lot of information in the media about the start date of our return to full-time school, 5 days a week. Last night, via the nightly news, we were all advised that all students are set to return next Monday 25 May. When I am informed by the Department of Education, I will communicate any additional details. There will be caveats placed on full-time student attendance such as no interschool sports, no excursions, no assemblies, no full canteen facilities and parent volunteers and limited adults onsite. I will update our community as information comes to hand.

When ALL students come back in a full time capacity, classroom teachers will not be able to support online learning as teachers deliver face-to-face content again. It will be assumed that school is a safe place to be as we adhere to NSW Health guidelines. All students will be expected at school. If your child has significant health reasons and their doctor has advised in writing that they are unable to attend school, please make an appointment to see me so we can coordinate suitable educational delivery.

If you'd still prefer to keep your child/ren at home without medical documentation, you may need to investigate applying to the National Education Standards Authority (NESA) to formally Home School your child/ren. This would mean that your child/ren would no longer be enrolled at Freemans Reach Public School during that time. For further information, please go to- <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/regulation/home-schooling/home-schooling-registration>.

GATE DROP OFF IN THE MORNING/PICK UPS

Thank you to our parents and carers who are limiting their presence onto our school grounds. This is a very unnatural request and I am very much looking forward to reversing this guideline as schools return to normal. Parents and carers are welcome to wait inside the school gate in the afternoons still, as long as social distancing guidelines are followed and families promptly leave the school grounds. Again, an unnatural request, so I thank you for following protocols to keep our local community safe. I will communicate any changes as they come to hand.

SEMESTER ONE REPORTS

Your child's Semester One Report has been modified to reflect the temporary changes to their learning environment and the curriculum. Assessment has been ongoing throughout the semester and will provide a summative account of student progress and achievement on the learning covered. It will also provide information about student attendance, social development and commitment to learning. These modified reports will be issued to families at the end of Term Two. Formal grade assessment using the NSW Department of Education's A-E criteria, will be applied next semester.

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Safe

Respectful

Environmentally Friendly

Learner

EFFORT SCORE IN STUDENT REPORTS

Children's academic ability will ebb and flow as they move through the curriculum to Year 12. This is also the case for adults as life-long learners. Mastery of curriculum and new learning as adults will fluctuate based on many intrinsic and environmental factors. It is our effort that defines us as learners. At Freemans Reach Public School, we have defined our effort scale on student reports to better reflect the effort that your child/ren demonstrate and to support consistency of teacher judgement. As students come back to full time attendance, teachers will be explaining our modified Semester One reports and our emphasis on effort through the Key Learning Areas. We will continue to teach learning dispositions at Freemans Reach Public School, so your children have a toolkit for life. Using this same language at home, should reinforce this extremely important message. Neither of us can do it alone.

Assessment of effort

The effort scale shows the degree of effort applied by the student from 1-Low to 5-High.

- 5 - The student is always prepared for lessons and ready to engage in learning. All classroom tasks are completed on time and to the best of the student's ability. The student is able to initiate independent learning challenges to further enhance their understanding of the lesson content.
- 4 - The student is always prepared for lessons and ready to engage in learning. All classroom tasks are completed on time and to the best of the student's ability.
- 3 - The student is usually prepared for lessons. However, at times may not immediately engage in learning. Most classroom tasks are completed on time and to the best of the student's ability.
- 2 - The student is sometimes prepared for lessons and ready to engage in learning. Many classroom tasks are not completed on time or to the best of the student's ability.
- 1 - The student is rarely or never prepared for lessons and ready to engage in learning. Classroom tasks are rarely or never completed on time or to the best of the student's ability.

TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND MATHS EQUIPMENT

If your child has borrowed a school device and power cord, 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. When we return to normal, full time attendance, all devices need to be returned and signed in at the front office. We also ask that all small whiteboards and maths resources (dice, counters etc from the Easter bunny deliveries) be returned to school as well as these are necessary resources for classroom use. If your child/ren have their own headphones at home, they will also be required to bring these back to school to ensure hygiene guidelines are followed.

CURRENT PHASE 1 AND ABSENCES

Currently, we are still in Phase 1 of our Return to school Model set by the Department of Education. 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/caregivers and our online learning will continue through this time. Your child/ren will be marked on the class rolls as follows-

Flexible Schooling As long as there is evidence of your child/ren learning from home, ie. 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 and the absence from face-to-face learning at school will not be recorded as such.

Absent-Justified-Sick 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, and your child will be recorded on the roll as absent-justified-sick.

Absent-Unjustified If there is no communication from parents, and they are not sick and there is no evidence of learning online or with paper copies, your child will be recorded on the roll as absent-unjustified.

Thank you for your continued support with this government requirement.

OUR SCHOOL OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Mitchell, her husband and her father, for removing our unsightly steel bars in the middle of our school. The beautiful tree now comes to life as a remarkable aspect in our school. I have many plans for improving the outside learning environment of our school, including adding planter boxes, increasing green space and making a feature of the entrance courtyard near the front gate.

CHANGES IN PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The school is finding that some of our families have changed their personal e-mail addresses. If you have had a change in family circumstances, be it address, phone number, emergency contacts or personal e-mail address, can you please inform the office staff and changes will be made accordingly.

SCRIPTURE CLASSES

The Catholic Parish of Richmond sends its best wishes to the children, families, and staff of the school communities. **If your family would like to, simple** to follow Catholic scripture lessons are available online at the following link: <https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/parish-community/ministries/ccd/curriculum/learning-from-home-sre-lessons>. Scripture classes at school have been suspended at the moment until further notice.

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. We are stronger together.

Stay calm, stay safe and stay connected.

Kind Regards
Lisa McGrath
Relieving Principal

Safe

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Learner