



ABERDEEN PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

12th May 2020, Week 3 Term 2

Website <http://aberdeen-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Parents.

During this time of uncertainty, the Newsletter will be used to communicate changes to our regular routines and school operation. It will be supplemented by posts on our Facebook page and Skool Loop. If you require additional information, please contact the school.

MANAGED RETURN TO SCHOOL (Phase 1)

Maintaining the health and wellbeing of our staff, students and school community is of utmost importance. A phased approach will mean there are a smaller number of students at school each day, providing more space to spread out. It also helps to balance the varied needs of students and staff, their families, personal circumstances and workplaces. The flexibility of the approach means we can also respond quickly to any new spikes in the spread of COVID-19.

SCHEDULE FOR STUDENTS TO RETURN ONE DAY A WEEK

Monday SEGENHOE	Tuesday HUNTER	Wednesday MACQUEEN	Thursday ROSSGOLE	Friday – children of essential workers
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STUDENT ATTENDANCE

In line with the changing situation, student attendance as of 24 March 2020 will be marked as follows:

F – Students at home engaged in learning, they regularly (a few times each week) upload evidence of learning to online platforms or return completed work to the school office.

A – There is no evidence of students completing work therefore students are on unapproved leave.

S – Parents advise the school that their child is sick and not able to attend school or engage in online learning and therefore unable to complete work set for the day.

Until we return to a position where every student is able to attend the school site every day we will continue to use the 'F' code marking the roll to identify students at home engaged in learning.

ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL

During Phase 1, parents are not to enter school grounds without prior arrangements. Upon arriving at the school for an appointment, parents must report directly to the school office.

ILLNESS OR SUSPECTED ILLNESS

Any person who presents at school and appears unwell, particularly with cold or flu symptoms and/or a high temperature will need to be isolated in sick bay or an area of the school, until they can either leave or be collected from school. The office has a non-contact thermometer for checking the temperature of anyone who appears unwell.

DAY CLEANING

The school will receive an extra cleaning service on school days between 11am and 3pm until further notice. This will involve the wiping down of high touch points in the playground, including play equipment and tables in the eating areas.

SIMULTANEOUS TEACHING FOR LEARNING AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME

This week teachers will start to experiment with running **simultaneous teaching** using an online web conferencing tool, such as Zoom or Teams. Simultaneous teaching involves the teacher delivering explicit instruction to students who present in the classroom and to those who are learning online from home, at the same time. It will take some practice to get this working seamlessly and we ask that you draw on your strengths of perseverance and kindness as teachers transition to this new method of lesson delivery. Simultaneous teaching will allow us to provide continuity of learning for students regardless of their setting, especially as more and more students are returning to school for more than one day a week. This may mean a reduction in the number of instructional videos that are available to support remote learning, therefore, it is important that children learning from home participate in scheduled Zoom or Teams meetings to receive the same learning opportunities as students at school. This is our overall goal during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CHANGES TO PICK UP AND DROP OFF

Students should be dropped off at school at one of two entry points to the school.

- 1) Front gate in Segenhoe Street for entry along the concrete walkway.
- 2) Side gate in Graeme Street for entry via steps to covered walkway.

Drop off point 1 – Segenhoe Street (Bus zone)

Parent says goodbye before child exits car (please do not stop across driveway). Child enters via pedestrian gate and walks single file along path.

Drop Off Point 2 – Graeme Street

Parents should say goodbye in the car and depending upon age of child and proximity to entrance gate, walk the child to the school gate. Please respect social distancing guidelines (1.5m for adults) if other parents are present. Return to car as soon as child enters grounds and depart area. Do not congregate in the car park.

Arrival to school from 8.25am

- A teacher is on duty to supervise students. Duty is in the COLA and asphalt area outside the library.
- Students are encouraged to wash hands upon arrival at school and before starting to play.
- All non-contact play is allowed, such as handball.
- Interaction with other children is permitted, no need to maintain social distancing.

Early Arrival

- Students will not be actively supervised until 8.25am so any students that arrive earlier are required to sit on the silver seats outside the Admin building until a teacher signals morning play.
- Students are not required to maintain social distancing.

Pick Up

Students can only be picked up in the afternoons from the Graeme Street exit.

- Students will assemble in house groups on the grassed area inside the gate (if weather permits).
- Parents need to line up along the fence line adjacent to the hall. The duty teacher will call for the children and the parent and children will follow the fence line along the edge of carpark to exit the collection zone.
- During wet weather, children will assemble in the covered area outside the hall. Parents follow same routine as above.

CANTEEN

Re-opening of the school canteen is being considered. With social distancing required for adults at school, new procedures will need to be developed to ensure we can comply with COVID-19 regulations. We will advertise the re-opening date once it has been decided.

ASSEMBLIES

Schools are not permitted to open assemblies up to the public, including parents. Teachers will have the opportunity to hand out an award at the end of each day to a student who is accessing learning at home or at school. Award recipients for each class during the week will be published in the newsletter the following week. Please keep an eye out for awards in your child's schoolbag. A short K-6 assembly is held each day after recess for students to receive important messages and reminders.

LIBRARY

Currently our school library remains closed for borrowing. There are several practices that need to be introduced to meet the hygiene practices required for returned items and with staff being utilised to support the phased return of students to school, we are not able to ensure that use of the library complies with the DoE guidelines. As we adjust to the new ways of operating, the library will re-open, with added assurance that all steps are being taken to maintain appropriate hygiene practices.

UPDATE ON SCHOOL PROJECTS & UPGRADES

The plans for the shade structure for the play equipment on the top oval are currently being reviewed by the team at the Assets Management Unit. We hope to receive advice soon as to whether our plans have been approved.

I met with Curtis from the AMU Delivery Team during the holidays to discuss a refurbishment of the Administration block. The works will involve redesigning the current layout to maximise spaces within the building. Sick bay will be moved closer to the office area so students can be more closely monitored by staff and I am hoping the plans will include a small meeting space that can be utilised for meetings with students and parents.

WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL?

At the end of last term and during the recent school holidays, sections of the school boundary fence have been replaced. This includes the fencing outside the hall and the boundary fence on the front oval. Automated gates with video intercom are being installed at the driveway and pedestrian gate entrances to the school in Segenhoe Street. The fencing works are completed and it is anticipated that the automated gates will be operational in a couple of weeks.



Classrooms had carpet tiles installed on walls to create additional display spaces for student work. I can't wait to see our classrooms looking bright and cheerful with students' work displayed for all to enjoy. The tiles also help with room acoustics so hopefully students and teachers will benefit from this once we return to school full-time. The installers have done a wonderful job working with the older buildings to ensure the classrooms look their best and ready for students.



An important message about our response to COVID-19

The health and safety of our staff and students is of the utmost importance to our school.

We have implemented a range of measures to help keep our school healthy and reduce the spread of infection and illness. Some simple measures we ask that you adopt include:



Before entering our school

If you have been unwell, with symptoms such as a high temperature, cough, sore throat, and/or shortness of breath, please don't visit our school. Please contact our office to speak to one of our staff.

Ph:



Maintaining a healthy distance

For the health and wellbeing of our staff and students, please stand at least **1.5 metres** apart while waiting in our office. Our visitors are encouraged to wait outside for their turn to speak with our office staff. We are also applying social distancing requirements across all areas of the school as is reasonable and practical.



Increase hygiene practices

We request that all staff, students and visitors follow increased personal hygiene practices. Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly. Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, and dispose of tissues properly.



Support for our staff

We appreciate your patience and support while we work together to minimise the impact of COVID-19 in our community.

We know this is a difficult time and we are doing all we can to support our staff and students.

For up-to-date information and resources, visit education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19.