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PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Term 2, Week 5

26 May 2020

COMING EVENTS

All events are cancelled or postponed at this point. Dates will be posted here when finalised and when school activities get back to normal.

Welcome back to school!

It was with much excitement that we welcomed our students back to school full-time after two months of learning from home!

It was wonderful to greet the students at the gates and to hear the sound of children engaging in learning with their teachers and reuniting with their peers. In our first days back, our priority for your children is their wellbeing. Teachers will spend the coming weeks identifying what the next steps in teaching and learning will be to ensure that all student learning needs are catered for and curriculum can be implemented appropriately moving forward. We are very grateful for the support our parent community gave our students during the remote learning period.



Assessment and Reporting Semester 1 2020

Semester 1 student reports will be modified in accordance with new guidelines published by the NSW Department of Education in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are currently modifying our report templates to provide an aggregate account of student progress and achievement on learning covered during Semester 1. Students in Years K-6 will not be given A-E grading in the Key Learning Areas. The content covered in the reports will reflect adjustments to learning made during the face-to-face and learning from home periods. As reports will be emailed, please ensure that you have provided the school with your current family email address. Semester 1 reports will be sent home in Week 10, Term 2. Information about parent teacher interviews is to come.

Parent Access to School Grounds

There should be no visitors to the school site unless they are essential. We ask that parents keep a distance from school wherever possible. **All communication with the school needs to be via email or telephone.**

Before entering the administration office please phone ahead to seek advice about whether entry is necessary. In the event that students arrive late, we ask that parents escort them to the administration block and leave immediately once staff have acknowledged their arrival. If students need to depart early, staff will escort students to the entrance of the administration block to be met by parents. Please notify the school in advance if you intend to collect your child early from school.

From Week 6, we ask that Kindergarten children are dropped at the gate to minimise the number of parents onsite. Students have adjusted well to the new routine and are well-prepared to enter the school independently.

Hygiene

Please be assured our school is well stocked with hand soap and sanitizer. Teachers will continue to reiterate key messages about washing hands regularly throughout the day. All high touch surfaces will continue to be cleaned regularly throughout the day as part of enhanced cleaning.

Dismissal Plan

Thank you for your ongoing support with our dismissal plan of an afternoon. Please continue to ensure that your children are aware of where they will be picked up from. In the event of wet weather, students will wait undercover.

Our dismissal plan reflects advice by the NSW Department of Education to:

- ensure school pick up and drop off arrangements enable parents to physically distance from one another and from staff
- use multiple exit and entry points
- use staggered times to avoid mass congregation of parents

Kiss and Ride

We appreciate the many offers of assistance from parents to help with Kiss and Ride. Due to restrictions on allowing parent volunteers and social distancing measures, the executive team will continue to run the Kiss and Ride.



To practise social distancing measures, staff will be in a supervisory role and will not be able to open or close doors for students.

With the increased volume of parents using Kiss and Ride, it is important to remind the community of key procedures to keep our students safe and minimise congestion.

Do not leave your vehicle

Drivers should remain in the car whilst children get in and out. **Children should travel with bags in the car and not the boot.** Make sure school bags and other items are in a safe position, e.g. on the floor.

Child Safety

Ensure children get in or out of the vehicle on the kerb side. Students should only be exiting the first three vehicles in the line. We ask that parents are patient and wait for vehicles in front of them to move off before driving forward.

Ensure children have their restraints securely fastened before driving off.

Exit from the Kiss and Ride Queue

Exiting from the Kiss and Ride queue is only to occur from the front. Exiting between other vehicles is dangerous and impacts the flow of traffic.

School Attendance

All students are expected to attend school unless they are unwell. This means students are either:

- at home because they are currently unwell
- at home because they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition.

Please note, students who are residing with a family member in one of the categories identified as being at increased risk, should attend school unless a medical practitioner advises otherwise. The

parent or carer should provide written confirmation from the treating health professional that the student is unable to attend school.

If students are away from school because they are unwell, there is no expectation that they complete school work. It is important that unwell students rest.

At this time, in the event of students having a medical certificate to not attend school due to a long term illness or underlying health condition, as is current practice, schools will continue to be responsible for providing work for students for the period they are prevented from being at school.

If a student is absent for more than three days without a medical certificate, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and followed up by the school in line with normal practice.

Sharing of food and Birthday Treats

We have received queries regarding students bringing in treats to share for their birthdays. While sharing food with classmates to celebrate a birthday is a lovely idea, we cannot allow students to share food during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Student Merit and Values Awards

While assemblies are on hold at the moment, teachers will be distributing merit and values awards in the classroom.

Uniform Shop – Online

Our uniform shop will continue to operate online until further notice to maintain appropriate social distancing measures. Taleb will continue to provide home delivery of products ordered online from <https://taleb.com.au/gladesville-uniform-shop/>.

Supporting Students with the Return to School

Please see some resources below to assist with supporting the return of our students to school. We have entered a time of transition and adjustment and this situation has impacted us all in a variety of ways. Keeping a check on your child's mental health and wellbeing as they adjust is vitally important.

School TV Special Report- [Coronavirus: The Transition Back](#)

Kids Helpline- [Returning to normal after COVID19](#)

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INSIGHTS

Charting a new course for kids post COVID-19



While we've been denied access during the COVID-19 pandemic to activities such as playing group sport, spending time in a café or meeting with friends, there's been plenty of upside too.

Discussions with friends reveal that family life has been a big beneficiary from the physical distancing measures. Comments such as "It's so good to slow down," "I cherish the time I'm spending with my children," and "I'm discovering the joy of having real conversations with my teenager" point to the positive side of getting off the family roundabout many of us have been on.

Though the restrictions placed on society are of course challenging, the imposed period of social isolation has provided an opportunity for parents to forge new habits that have potential to bring more joy and less stress to their children's lives once the threat has subsided. Here are some ideas to consider while charting a new course for kids post COVID-19.

Significant personal hobbies

Our previous reliance on organised, adult-initiated activity to keep kids busy came at the expense of child-initiated hobbies and interests. The rise of personal digital entertainment and communication technology in recent years has also contributed to the demise of hands-on hobbies such as collecting, crafts and music.

The Scandinavians have long valued the positive impact of hobbies on a person's wellbeing and quality of life. In turn they encourage (and in Sweden's case heavily subsidise) the uptake of hobbies and personal interests from a very young age.

Personal learning centres

Experts agree that the future of work will be characterised by constant change, requiring workers to continually learn and upskill if they are to adapt. Our children will need to see themselves as continuous learners if they are to succeed in this uncertain future.

The home is a great place to plant this concept in young minds and there's no better way to do this than establishing their own personal learning centre. Start small with a bean bag, a small book shelf and build from there. It's the idea rather than the physical setting where the learning significance lays.

Mental health practices

This period in isolation has offered an opportunity to embed good mental health practices in children and young people. Three key health practices to continue include healthy eating, plenty of exercise and good sleep patterns. Add regular mindfulness practice, deep breathing and the opportunity to spend plenty of time in nature and you'll be establishing a strong mental health and wellbeing framework for life.

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Mix of alone and group activities

Life in social isolation has meant family members have had to compromise. Extroverts who love to be surrounded by people have had to give parents and siblings the space they need. Introverts who prefer their own company have been sharing their time, space and company with other family members. Post COVID-19, consider encouraging kids to experience a mixture of alone time, allowing for personal reflection and family time, which promotes family connection. Both are essential for healthy wellbeing.

Deep eldership connection

Increased one-on-one time between parents and kids has been a positive side effect of life in social isolation. The opportunity for parents to connect with children and young people with greater depth and meaning is a return to eldership, practised by past generations. Eldership, where parents shared their wisdom and their vulnerabilities with young people, when combined with healthy rites of passage is a time-honoured way of preparing young people for adulthood.

This period of social isolation has provided a rare opportunity for parents to renew and refresh their children's lifestyles, and in some circumstances, reboot family lives as well. It would be a waste to climb back on the busy roundabout of life once the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided, without making some positive changes to the way we live.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.