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Education
Public Schools



Fairfax Public School is waiting patiently for students to return.

Welcome to our final newsletter for the term.

Apologies for it being late, and a little light in photographs and content but Lockdown does have that effect.

Thank you to parents that are doing a great job supporting their students with their Learning from Home. It has been a juggling act for teachers to try to deliver three

different modes of learning over the last couple of weeks, so we do very much appreciate your flexibility and support.

Ultimately, we are trying to do the best for the students and their learning. It is with this front and centre that we have continued to provide a program of learning that

continues from our Term 3 units of work.

There are many wonderful resources on the Learning from Home hub, which students are welcome to interact with, however the program we have provided to students is the mandatory learning for this term.

Informative Texts

Mrs Harvey and I have been amazed by the effort students have made in improving their informative texts from their efforts in Term One. Some of us have reflected on why we have been able to make such a significant improvement. Besides time, explicit teaching of content and informative text structure has provided students with a clear understanding of what should be included in an informative text. Clear success criteria and high

expectations from teachers, students and parents has enabled the informative texts presented to be rich in quality.

I hope students have enjoyed learning many new, interesting facts about their chosen area of research. Mrs Harvey and I are all the richer for learning from six different information texts.

Students will now be selecting a new topic to research and present with the emphasis on demon-

strating verbs in their Writing Rubrics. This requires higher-order thinking, particularly from our older students.

Stage 2 and 3 students are to still apply the success criteria established for their Olympic information report, but with less focus on quantity of information and a greater focus on Purpose and Audience. Students have their own rubric to refer to. These reports are to be submitted by Wednesday, 15 September.

Letter from Department of Education

Following is a letter to parents from the Department of Education with the latest advice on returning to school.

03.09.2021

Dear Parents,

Currently the clear message from NSW Health is that families should be keeping children at home unless it is absolutely necessary for them to attend school.

Looking ahead, on Friday 27 August 2021 the Premier announced the return to school roadmap for students in NSW. Students will return to face-to-face learning either through a 'staged return' or 'full return', depending on NSW Health conditions in their area.

Full return (Level 3)

Areas across NSW that are removed from stay-at-home rules will return to school under Level 3 settings. This is a full return for all students to schools, with reduced mingling and on-site activities.

Staged return (Level 3 plus)

Where stay-at-home rules are still in place but high community vaccination and low transmission conditions are met, students will return to school in a staged way. This is a staggered return for prioritised cohorts, with no mingling or on-site activities.

Students in Year 12 and those completing the HSC are already able to return in a limited way and

this will continue for the remainder of Term 3 2021. From 25 October 2021, these students will have full-time access to school campuses and their teachers.

Local Government Areas of concern

Identified Local Government Areas (LGAs) and suburbs of concern operating under Level 4 plus restrictions will continue learning from home until we are advised otherwise by NSW Health.

Order of return

Students will return to face-to-face learning with NSW Health-approved COVID-safe settings on school sites in the following order:

From 25 October 2021

– Kindergarten, Year 1 and 12

From 1 November 2021

– Years 2, 6 and 11

From 8 November 2021

– Years 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

We will be providing further advice as we develop our plan for a staged return.

The return to school roadmap is subject to change depending on new information expected through the Public Health Order and additional advice from NSW Health. You can stay up to date with the most recent advice on our Advice for families page.

Vaccinations for school staff

To ensure a COVID-safe return to school, all NSW public school and preschool staff on-site to support the staged return of students will be required to be fully vaccinated.

Any contractors, volunteers or people on site who require a Working With Children Check will also be required to have 2 doses of vaccination before returning to our school.

Our staff have been encouraged to make use of the various routes for priority vaccination available to them and to book appointments for whatever vaccine is available as soon as possible. We will continue to work with NSW Health to prioritise vaccinations for all staff across NSW.

All NSW school and preschool staff will be required to be fully vaccinated by 8 November.

The department's COVID-19 webpage is constantly being updated, and outlines the restrictions in our schools as well as other useful information and resources to keep you up to date and supported.

Learning from Home

The learning from home page has a wide range of curriculum-based activities to further supplement your child's learning, if required.

We understand the pressures of parents both supervising learning from home as well as completing their own work. There are some helpful wellbeing tools available to help look after yourself and those around you. Parents are the best judge of what is appropriate for your child to be doing at home. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or your child's teacher if you need further guidance or something is not working for you.

Book Week

Fairfax students are fortunate to have the shortlisted and winning books from Book Week. Our Stage One students have enjoyed books from the early learning category each day which have been most enjoyable and of a very high standard. Stage 2 and Stage 3 students will have the opportunity to borrow and read the books for more senior readers in the holidays.

Help Around the House

Congratulations to our Stage 2 and 3 students for interacting with our class text so deeply and meaningfully. It has been most rewarding to see students' growth in reading and responding to a text so totally removed from their everyday lives and experiences.

Thank you

Thank you very much to Mrs Carmel Harvey and Mrs Wendy Laird for making themselves available as casual teachers to enable student learning while meeting Department of Education and Health guidelines during Lockdown. It has been greatly appreciated.

Weekly Awards

Since Lockdown no Weekly Awards have been awarded to ensure fairness to all students.

Representative Sport

All representative sport has either been cancelled or postponed at this stage. We will keep you informed of any updates.

7 Habits Professional Learning

To better develop staff and parents with an improved understanding of the Leader in Me program, Professional Learning on the 7 Habits will be provided this Thursday and Friday via Zoom. I look forward to being able to share the language of Leader in Me and 7 Habits in developing our students' social and emotional learning beyond the classroom.

Small Schools' Speaking Competition

The Small Schools' Speaking Competition that was to be held next week at Sacred Heart in Boggabri has been postponed to Thursday, 4th November in Week 5 of Term 4. Restrictions at the time will determine whether it is a live or virtual platform.

Kamay Botany Bay Educational Centre

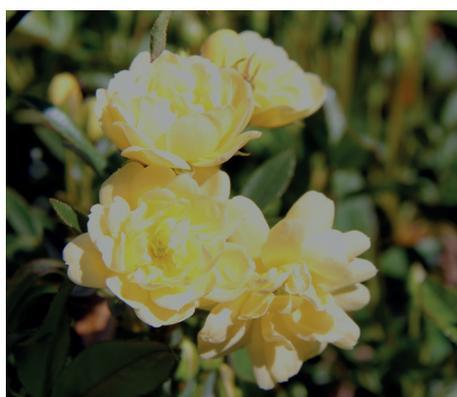
Students have been enrolled in several virtual lessons on Zoom. The first is this Wednesday, 8 September at 9.30 for one hour. (Link has been provided to parents at home). It is titled "Waste Watchers." I will be seeking your ideas for actions at school after viewing. Students will be required to have coloured pencils and paper.

The second session is on Thursday, 9th September at 9.30am and is titled "Map my World." Coloured pencils and paper are required for this Zoom as well. (The link has been provided to the Murphy family). The remaining students will access this learning at school.

Irrigation System

Adam from Peel Irrigation and Water Supplies Tamworth, has visited the school today to carry out maintenance of our irrigation system following our bore upgrade. We are now operating fully automatic with the upgrade to our watering system which was made possible through the Regional Renewal Program.

Spring is awakening...



Good for Kids good for life

RECIPE FOR A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

Did you know that primary school-aged children need between 9 - 11 hours of sleep every night?¹

Poor sleep quality and insufficient sleep has been associated with a range of physical and mental health problems that can impact on a child's health and development.¹

Here's some sleep tips to help make sure your kids are getting their zzz's...

- Have a consistent sleep schedule and bedtime routine to help your child relax and wind down each night.
- Switch off all screens (TV, tablets, computers, phones) an hour before bed, and no screens in the bedroom!
- Daily exercise and time outdoors promote good sleep. Make sure your child is getting plenty of physical activity throughout the day.



Check out more sleep tips at www.healthdirect.gov.au/sleep-tips-for-children



Health
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