



Information about the Term 2 phased 'managed return to school plan' at APCS

27th April, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2 at APCS. I hope this message finds you and your family well. I have been incredibly appreciative of the support and understanding that we have received from parents, carers and students during these unprecedented times in education. This term will certainly bring challenges but I am confident we can work through them together as a community.

School Development Days (pupil free days)

Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th April are for **Staff only**.

Term 2 commences for students on Wednesday 29th April

Phased Managed Return to School

NSW Public Schools are looking to increase face-to-face teaching through a gradual return to school for students during Term 2. This will be done through a staged approach to balance the needs of students and staff, their families, personal circumstances and workplaces during the pandemic.

Since Wednesday 22nd April the senior executive of APCS have been working through the DoE document 'Term 2 2020 Guidelines for schools' which provides advice on how NSW public schools will operate during Term 2 2020. The guidelines have been used to create a draft 'managed return to school' model for Alexandria Park Community School. The greater part of this deep thinking and high-level organisational work has been undertaken by Debra Lade, the Primary Deputy Principal, and Alex Forbath the Head Teacher of Administration. I thank them for their outstanding work over this past week.

APCS Overview

Weeks	Dates	Phase	At a glance
1 and 2	29 th April – 8 th May	0	Learning from home continues
3 and 4	11 th May – 25 th May	1	Every student K to 12 has one rostered day of attendance at school each week.
5 +	28 th May onwards	2 to 4	Plans for Phases 2 to 4 will be developed based on monitoring and evaluation of Phase 1 and directions from the DoE.

Phase 0 - Wednesday 29 April – Friday 8 May, Weeks 1 and 2

Online learning at home continues

In weeks 1 and 2 of this term, students will continue to 'learn from home' as they did at the end of Term 1. Students who are experiencing challenges accessing online materials can arrange to have a paper copy of a home learning pack mailed out or picked up from the administration office.

The school will remain open for students who need to attend. Supervision will be available for these students,

and they will engage in the same learning as the students 'learning at home'. As also announced by the NSW Premier, parents are encouraged **'to keep their children at home'**.

Phase 1 - Monday 11 May – Friday 25 May, Weeks 3 and 4

The Premier has stated **that in Phase 1 children should be kept at home except for their 'rostered day'** and has asked parents to 'respect the guidelines' that will be established by the school. Please note that this **does not apply** to those students **who need to attend**. At APCS we tracked this group of students in the last 3 weeks of Term 1 and this has been factored into the model to adhere as best as we can that only 25% of students are on site on any given day.

In short, **our draft plan for phase 1** (weeks 3 and 4) is that students K – 12 will attend school one day a week in their class group (primary) and their roll call class (secondary 7 - 10). Each day a different class from each year group will attend. Mrs Lade and Mr Forbath have spent hours to try their best to cross-match the classes to sibling groups. Years 11 and 12 will attend on one day.

Model of learning during Phase 1 (weeks 3 & 4)

Students learning either at home or at school on their rostered day will continue to engage in learning experiences provided by their teachers on line or paper copies of units of work. Students attending school on their rostered day will, where possible, have some class time with their class teacher. It is not possible at this time to provide any guarantee that this optimal arrangement can be guaranteed for all classes K – 12. ***We again ask that our parents and students be patient and understanding of the logistical complexities involved in the phased return to school model.***

Parent/carers consultation on the draft APCS 'managed return to school' model for phase 1

The draft APCS 'managed return to school' model for phase 1 will be released to parents and carers for their feedback early in term 2. Parents and carers can expect an SMS message alerting them to the posting of the draft model for phase 1 being posted on the school's website on the home page under 'latest news'. We will also endeavour to email this communication. A google doc survey form will be included to allow parents and carers to provide feedback to the school. Paper copies of the draft model and the feedback survey form will be available from the Park Rd (primary) administration office. There will be a very tight timeline for the feedback survey to be completed by parents and carers.

Attendance at school during Phase 1

Parents and carers are encouraged to send their child to school on the allocated days and times for their child's class.

If a parent or carer deem there are personal circumstances or an underlying health condition preventing their child/children attending school on their allocated day/time, please follow normal school procedures for absence from school. Contact the school by phone, SMS or email to explain the reason for the absence.

Students who are participating in learning from at home or school will be marked as being present at school.

Students are not expected to participate in learning if they are unwell and as such will marked as being on sick leave pending advice from parents or carers that the student is unwell.

Students who are not at school and unable to be contacted by the school to determine their whereabouts will be followed up using normal APCS school attendance processes and marked as on unapproved leave.

Camp Australia

Camp Australia will be operating a full day Pupil Free Day service on Monday 27th April and Tuesday 28th April, and our regular OSHC service (before and after school service) will resume from Wednesday 29th April at Alexandria Park Community School. If the service starts to reach capacity, as per the latest Federal Government advice, Camp Australia will need to give priority of access to "children of working parents, vulnerable and disadvantaged children". Should parents choose to send their children to school and require

Outside School Hours Care, they must visit the Parent Portal to register their current status. Camp Australia have informed us that they have made the decision to cancel all previously made bookings for OSHC for Term 2, except for bookings made within the last 7 days. We have directed families that should they meet the above criteria, they must rebook their care as needed. For all families that attend, childcare will be provided free of charge until 30th June as per the Federal Government's announcement on the 2nd April. If you have any questions about the Camp Australia service please contact them directly through the parent portal or speak to Amy.

The school canteen and water bottles

At this stage we have not planned for the school canteen to re-open. For now students attending school will need to bring their own food. Students should also bring their own water bottle which they can refill from the taps. Students will not be able to use the bubblers. More information about the provision of canteen services will be provided at a later date.

Please help us to keep APCS a safe and healthy school environment to support the phased return to school for students.

Hygiene practices

The best way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 is by continuing effective hygiene practices:

- Clean your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Sneeze or cough into your elbow or a tissue.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- If your child is sick PLEASE keep them at home

Physical distancing – Limiting the number of adults on the school site

In addition, as we work together to return more staff and students to school, physical distancing is of paramount importance.

I respectfully ask that parents and carers keep their distance from the school where possible. When we begin phase 1 of our model we will be setting out explicit drop off and pick up procedures for parents, carers and students to manage social distancing in our playground and school.

From Wednesday 29th April (phase 0) we ask that parents and carers bring their children to school and leave the school grounds immediately.

Useful website links

Practical resources and guides to help students learning from home and school staff teaching from home are available at the department's Learning from home hub.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/advice-to-parentsand-carers>

The website <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families> has been updated and may have information that interests you.



Diane Fetherston
Principal