



Birrong Public School

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Promoting Life Long Learning

30 April 2020

TERM 2 SCHOOL MANAGEMENT (COVID-19 UPDATE)

Dear Parents and Carers,

I welcome you and your children back to Term 2. I do hope that you were able to enjoy the holiday period with your family.

I understand that you would have received a lot of information about school operations via the media during the school holidays, specifically announcements made by the NSW Premier and Education Minister. I would like to explain to you how Birrong PS is managing school this term.

Learning at Home

In Weeks 1 and 2 of this term, students are continuing to 'learn at home' as they did at the end of Term 1. This includes access to the **Learning at Home** plans on our school website and a paper copy which was mailed to your home. Stage teams have also started to use Google Classroom. The learning has been created by our teachers and consists of planned lessons to suit the educational needs of each stage. Our teachers have designed these lessons to continue the scope and sequence of learning in each Key Learning Area.

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'. The NSW Premier has encouraged parents to keep their children at home where possible.

The Department of Education has requested one mode of learning, so please be assured that both students 'learning at school' and 'learning at home' will receive the same level of instruction and materials.

A 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 COVID-19.

From Week 3 (11 May), every student will have the opportunity to start attending school one day a week. Schools will manage the structure of this 'Phased Managed Return' for their context. In other words, the Premier and Department of Education (DoE) expects that every school will do this differently.

This week our executive and teaching staff have been working through the Premier's operational guidelines to create a model for Birrong Public School that will be communicated to you via email and social media. We will also continue to adjust our plans based on any new advice we receive from the NSW Department of Education.

A key consideration of our model has been the wellbeing of each child and their connection to their class teacher.

Next week you will be informed of your child's return day when you receive a phone call from the class teacher. Please be aware that the call may be made from a blocked number as our teachers are using their own phones.

We are currently in Phase 0 and in Week 3 (May 11) we move into Phase 1. 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**.

There are five phases to get us back to full onsite school operations:

- Phase 0. Where we currently are), schools are open for families who need it
- Phase 1. Students at school at least one day per week
- Phase 2. Students at school at least two days per week
- Phase 3. Students at school five days per week, with social distancing measures
- Phase 4. Students at school five days per week, with full school activities.

NSW Department of Education

NSW Department of Education

	PHASE 0	PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
At all times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools are safe places for students, teachers and staff. All students engage with a single unit of work. Keep up-to-date with your school's communications to make sure you receive important messages about timetable changes. Any identified cases of COVID-19 will continue to be managed in line with health advice, including temporary school closures where necessary. 	Schools are open for families who need it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are encouraged to keep their children at home wherever possible, with no student to be turned away. Students who attend school are supervised only, not in their regular classes. No excursions or inter-school activities. Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements. 	Students at school at least one day per week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools have discretion for establishing which group attends on which day, with a preference to group siblings/families together. Families who need to send their child to school every day may continue to do so and no child will be turned away. Classes are split across different spaces and break times can be staggered. No excursions or inter-school activities. Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements. 	Students at school at least two days per week. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools have discretion for establishing which group attends on which days, with a preference to group siblings/families together. Families who need to send their child to school every day may continue to do so and no child will be turned away. Classes are split across different spaces and break times can be staggered. No excursions or inter-school activities. Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements. 	Students at school five days per week, with social distancing measures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with increased health risks may continue to learn at home to suit their individual needs. Students remain in the same classroom for the day, break times can be staggered to reduce mixing between class groups. No excursions or inter-school activities. Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements. 	Students at school five days per week, with full school activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal school breaks and entry/exit processes will resume. Infection control procedures will continue on a school by school basis. Communication to staff, students and families regarding NSW Health advice will continue. Continued communication to the Early Childhood Education sector regarding NSW Health Advice.
	You can now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send your child/children to school one day a week. You are encouraged to keep your child at home for the rest of the week wherever possible. Check with your school to see which day of the week your child/children should attend. Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place. 	You can now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send your child/children to school two days a week. You are encouraged to keep your child at home for the rest of the week wherever possible. Check with your school to see which two days of the week your child/children should attend. Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place. 	You can now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send your child/children to school every day. Access community services run on school sites, where they are not restricted by Public Health Orders. Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place. Walk your child/children into and out of school while maintaining social distancing. 	You can now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send your child/children to school every day. Participate in school excursions and inter-school activities. Use playground equipment at schools. Drop your child/children off at school as you would normally do. Participate in school based activities such as volunteering in classes and assemblies. Use services that usually operate at your school like canteens and other community run activities. 	
Learning from home <p>Practical resources and guides to support students are available at the department's Learning from home hub.</p>	You must continue to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your child/children at home if possible. Support your child/children to continue learning at home. Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible. Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell. 	You must continue to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so. Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates. Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage. Support your child/children to continue learning at home on remote learning days. Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible. Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell. 	You must continue to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so. Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates. Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage. Support your child/children to continue learning at home on remote learning days. Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible. Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell. 	You must continue to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so. Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates. Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage. Support your child/children to continue to learn at home if they are required to learn remotely. Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible. Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell. 	

A managed return to school

Guidelines for families

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Just Do Your Best

I would like to reinforce the message that we understand these are challenging times and only ask that families do their best. The health and wellbeing of all families is our key priority and we encourage you to aim for a balanced approach to learning at home.

A focus on English and Mathematics in primary school reflects the expectation that approximately 50% of the school week is devoted to these subjects. Other subjects make up approximately 30-40% and schools have flexibility in how they implement these subjects. You will note that at this time, the suggested learning time ranges from 2.5 to 3 hours for students depending on which grade they are in. Hopefully this is manageable, but we understand that this may not always be possible.

The table (over) outlines the recommended time allocations for students participating in learning at school or at home.

Early Stage 1	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Kindergarten	Years 1 and 2	Years 3 and 4	Years 5 and 6
Total 2.5 hours + other	Total 2.5 hours + other	Total 3 hours + other	Total 3 hours + other
45-60 minutes English	45-60 minutes English	45-60 minutes English	45-60 minutes English
30-45 minutes Mathematics	30-45 minutes Mathematics	30-45 minutes Mathematics	30-45 minutes Mathematics
30-60 minutes Other KLAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Arts • HSIE • PDHPE • Science/Tech. 	30-60 minutes Other KLAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Arts • HSIE • PDHPE • Science/Tech. 	60-90 minutes Other KLAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Arts • HSIE • PDHPE • Science/Tech. 	60-90 minutes Other KLAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Arts • HSIE • PDHPE • Science/Tech.
Other activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing • Sport • Physical activity* 	Other activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing • Sport • Physical activity* 	Other activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing • Sport • Physical activity* 	Other activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing • Sport • Physical activity*

KLA = Key Learning Area

*where social distancing allows



Drop Your Children at the Gate

In order to support the social distancing measures on site we are asking parents and carers to say goodbye to your children at the gate. **Please do not enter the school site.**

This will not be forever, it is just for now as we work together to beat COVID-19. Please also wait at a gate entrance of an afternoon to collect your children. We also ask that you continue to observe social distancing outside the gate.

If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please phone the school on 96443078. You can also email the teacher via the school's email address birrong-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Thank You

I have been incredibly appreciative of the support and understanding that we have received from parents during these unprecedented times in education. I know how challenging this has been for our students and their families. I would also like to thank the extraordinary staff of Birrong Public School who have gone above and beyond to learn new modes of lesson delivery and technology platforms when designing and creating new content in a short time period to ensure their students' learning and growth continues.

Stay safe!

Jodi Devine
Principal