

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update - 27.04.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you following my communication yesterday Sunday 26th April. [Please review this communication on our school's Schoolstream page here.](#)

Two School Development Days to Start Term Two

A reminder that there are now two School Development Days to start term. This means the first day of Term Two for (those attending) students will be Wednesday 29th April.

Phased Return of Students

For full details of the NSW Government's 'phased return' of students to NSW Public Schools, please review my communication sent 26.04.2020 [or click here](#) for the NSW Government's full details of this arrangement.

Phase 0.

A reminder that the NSW Premier has advised that schools will remain in 'distance learning' mode (Phase 0) for Weeks One and Two of Term. The Premier has advised that '*...wherever possible families are encouraged to keep their children at home...*' during this period. As Principal of a NSW Government School, I can only encourage families to follow the Premier's request. The Premier is acting on the advice of NSW Health.

Phase 1. One Day Per Week for Each Child. How will this be managed at BPPS?

As Principal I have today liaised with BPPS staff across all grades K-6. At this time our school will plan to staff two classrooms per grade for each day of the school week from May 11th. With this arrangement we have options for each grade for each day of the week.

The Premier has requested that all students will continue to undertake '*..the same unit of work...*' during the 'Phase 1' period, whether at home or at school – thus distance learning materials will need to continue to be produced by staff for Phase 1.

We cannot have all 600 students at school on the same day for their one day each week as the NSW Government has given advice (through the NSW DoE) that social distancing of a maximum of 10 students per classroom remains in place – in spite of the Prime Minister's comments 24th April.

This is confusing – I know – but I take instructions from the NSW DoE and the NSW DoE take instructions from the NSW Premier who takes advice from NSW Health.

Families First

At Banora Point PS, we believe it is important to try to:

- prioritise which days suit parents and which do not
- ensure students have contact with their peers and classroom teacher and other teachers from that grade – on the one day they attend school

If we were to return students by House groups, it may be difficult to manage these issues. This is why we are not taking this approach as in other school communities.

While we may have a lot of data to sort through in seeking your preferences, we will try our best. We also want to make the exercise of returning students for one day each week, as meaningful as possible. This means keeping things as 'normal' as possible for our kids. This means keeping teachers and peer groups together if we can. Please note that while we can try to accommodate your preferences, we may not be able to please everyone. We will try. Families with multiple students will be kept together on the one day.

Survey of Parent Preferences for Phase One Return of Students from May 11th – One Day Per Week

[Please find a link here to a survey that we ask parents and carers to complete for each child.](#)

The survey will give each family the opportunity to outline your family's 1st, 2nd and 3rd preference for which day of the week your child will return for Phase One of the NSW's Premier's 'phased return' of students into school.

As outlined, Phase One will see each child access school for one day each week. The Premier has determined that Phase One will begin from Monday May 11th.

Please complete the survey once for each child you have at our school. To be clear, if you have two children, we will ask you to complete two surveys; one for each child. Thank you for your help. This survey will close on Thursday April 30th at 4pm. We need one survey completed for each child so that we may sort the data efficiently.

What's Next at Banora?

- Wednesday 29th April – Essential workers children – first day on site
- Wednesday 29th April – All other students to continue with distance learning – as per 'learning sequences sent home late last term
- Thursday 30th April – Survey will close at 4pm
- Friday May 1st – I will communicate with all parents and carers as to what we have managed to organise in response to the surveys completed

Kind regards,

P. Taylor

Principal 27/04/2020