

Prairiewood High School



Principal Ms B Giudice

203-215 Restwell Rd, Prairiewood NSW 2176

Postal Address Locked Bag 46, Wetherill Park BC NSW 1851

Phone 02 9725 5444 Email prairiewoo-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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ADVICE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON RETURN TO FACE TO FACE TEACHING FROM MONDAY MAY 25 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

On Tuesday 19 May 2020, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced the return to face-to-face teaching for students in all NSW public schools, effective from this coming **Monday, 25 May**. As a result, we are looking forward to welcoming students back full time from Monday.

In line with NSW Government advice, the one-day per week staggered return to schooling has been very successful. It has been great to have year 12 students on site much more than this in their staggered return to school. We continue to prioritise student achievement and quality teaching and learning. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the extraordinary staff at Prairiewood High School for their efforts during this remote learning period.

I want to reassure you that the safety of our community remains our priority. The relevant government and health authorities have provided assurances that it is safe to welcome students back and that strict social distancing is not required for students. We will continue to reinforce important health and hygiene measures.

Important points to note regarding school routine that minimise the risk of COVID-19:

- **Enhanced Cleaning** – Additional cleaning of toilets, bubblers, and high touch areas is occurring as part of the Department of Education’s commitment to ensure schools are safe to return.
- **Enhanced Hygiene Practices** - We have purchased a number of hand sanitiser dispensers, and each classroom has a kit containing paper towel, cleaning spray and sanitiser. As has been articulated to students through year meetings, students are expected to wipe down the desk they are using each lesson and sanitise and wash their hands regularly.
- **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)** – We encourage students to continue to bring their electronic device to school to support teaching and learning. Students bringing their own device will also reduce sharing of equipment. Technology and learning equipment is regularly cleaned.
- **Changes to Roll Call** – To prevent minimisation of movement throughout the school and as an interim strategy of support, attendance rolls will now be formally marked during the period 1 lesson. A five-minute warning bell will still occur to ensure students are in class on time. We will continue to send daily SMS messages to parents if students are not present.
- **Visitation on Site** – The advice in this space remains unchanged. The current guidelines state: ‘There should be no visitors to school sites unless they are essential. Preference should be given to virtual meetings wherever possible’. Meetings with parents will only occur through appointment with relevant staff. We respectfully request that adults adhere

to social distancing guidelines. Parents and carers will be contacted if their child is unwell and they need to go home. On these occasions, please ring on arrival and we will sign out your child.

- **Scripture is currently non-operational as per Department of Education advice** – As you are aware, Scripture is an optional activity for students in NSW public schools. We currently run Scripture after lunch each Tuesday. The Special Religious Education Procedures state ‘Principals must ensure that no academic instruction or formal school activities occur during time set aside for SRE’. As no providers are available to supervise Scripture across our numerous classes and no formal teaching occurs for non-Scripture students, until our providers return students will be permitted to leave each Tuesday at the end of period 5 (1:55pm). This will support private study and/or student participation in online Scripture. Minimum supervision will still be provided for students who remain on site. For students who wish to engage in online Scripture study, the following websites have been shared with the school:
 - Combined Christian SRE Curriculum Portal - <https://thinkfaith.com.au/>
 - Catholic SRE Curriculum Portal - <https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>
 - Islamic Charity Projects Association SRE Curriculum Portal - <https://www.icpa.org.au/high-school-scripture-material/>
- **Sport & Physical Activity considerations** - As students return to full time face to face learning, sport and physical activity programs will initially focus on non-contact sports (e.g. Table Tennis, Badminton, Handball etc). This applies to class, recess and lunch activities.

Thank you for the way you have responded to challenges of COVID-19, including making the transition to at-home learning and balancing your child's learning with work arrangements and the staggered return to school that has occurred from May 11.

Finally, I have attached the Department of Education support material, ‘[A guide to NSW school students returning to face-to-face learning for parents and carers](#)’. This guide provides additional information on how NSW public schools will operate from May 25. This information has been translated into Vietnamese and Arabic to support our community – see website for translations.

Additional information from the Department of Education can be provided at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/inside-the-department/covid-19/school-staff/term-2-2020-guidelines-for-schools>

We look forward to welcoming our students back for full-time on-campus learning. Please continue to check the school website, our Facebook page and SkoolBag for regular updates. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school regarding these return to school arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Belinda Giudice

Principal