

Prairiewood High School



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CRICOS NSW Department of Education CRICOS Provider Code 00588M www.deinternational.nsw.edu.au

11 July 2021

ADVICE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON THE LEARN FROM HOME PROGRAM FOR THE BEGINNING OF TERM 3 2021

Dear parents and carers,

On the 7th July 2021, the Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced that Sydney's current lockdown will continue into the beginning of Term Three. At present, the stay-at-home public health orders are in place until Friday 16th July. This may change.

The Department of Education has introduced a new COVID-Safe School Operations framework that reflect the following level system determined by NSW Health:

| Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
|--|--|--|--|
| COVID NORMAL Students learning at school <ul style="list-style-type: none">all activities occurring in a COVID-safe waystaff & students may choose to wear a maskQR codes in place | LIMITED RESTRICTIONS Students learning at school <ul style="list-style-type: none">no non-essential visitorscertain activities modified to be COVID-safemasks recommended indoors for all staff and all students in Year 7 and above (noting exemptions apply)QR codes in place | SIGNIFICANT RESTRICTIONS Students are learning at school <ul style="list-style-type: none">No non-essential visitorsreduced mingling between student and year cohorts and restrictions on activitiesmasks mandatory for all staff and all students in Year 7 and above (noting exemptions apply)QR codes in place | LEARNING FROM HOME Students learning from home <ul style="list-style-type: none">schools open for students and their families who need itmasks mandatory for all staff and all students in Year 7 and above (noting exemptions apply)no non-essential visitorsreduced mingling between student and year cohorts wherever possibleQR codes in place |

For week one of the term, public schools in Greater Sydney are operating at **Level 4**. This means learning from home is encouraged and schools are only open for children of essential workers or those who cannot learn from home. Please note that Fairfield LGA has been identified by NSW Health as an area of COVID community transmission concern, so it is part of the school's risk management plan to absolutely minimise staff and students on site.

Monday 12th July is the School Development Day – this is a student free day.

From Tuesday 13th July to Friday 16th July, non-essential visitors on school site are not permitted and school canteens are non-operational. Masks must be worn at all times by any students and staff that are on site. Parents will be contacted to collect students if masks are not worn or if students are displaying flu-like symptoms.

We respectfully request that you do not send your child to school if they are unwell. So that we can monitor masks being worn, students attending school during week one must enter via the main gate as the Stockland gate will remain locked. This will also ensure we have no community members entering our school grounds.

We draw your attention to the following:

Program of Learning

We will provide the **same** program of learning for students who attend school, and students who are learning from home.

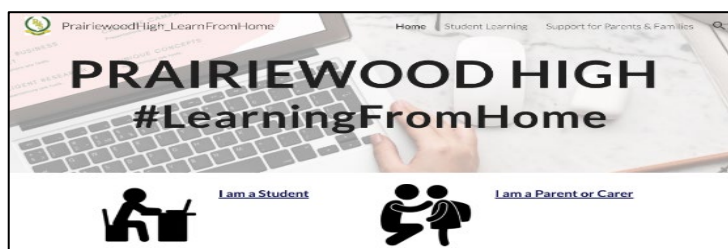
We will again be using [Google Classrooms](#) to ensure the continuity of students' learning and this includes all Special Education students. In each virtual classroom, students will be assigned a range of learning tasks by their teachers to complete; including research, problem-solving, creative and critical thinking activities. In these Google Classrooms, students will also have the ability to engage with their teacher, ask questions, collaborate with their peers, submit work, and also receive feedback from teachers.

During the School Development Day (Monday), Year 7 to 10 students will receive an invitation to their Google Classroom for the week. Students will be notified via their Department email or they can access it directly through their Student Portal Google suite by clicking on Google Classroom. Please encourage your child to check their emails prior to school beginning on Tuesday.

Year 11 and 12 students already have access to Google Classrooms for their subjects so learning will continue as per usual.

Attendance

Students will be asked to record their attendance on their Google Classroom each day by 8.25 each day and they will be asked to record their attendance in each lesson. If your child is sick and is unable to complete the lesson, please inform the school.



PHS Learning From Home Website

Our [Learning from Home website](#), which we shared with you last year, has been updated and we will continue to add to this over the next few days. This has specific landing pages for both students and parents/carers and includes information to support on-line learning including class/bell times, technology support, extension work, links to google classrooms, wellbeing support links and an overview of student timetables. We will also send out links to this site via [Skoolbag](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and it will be on our school website. It can be accessed at:

<https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/phslearnfromhome2021/home?authuser=0>

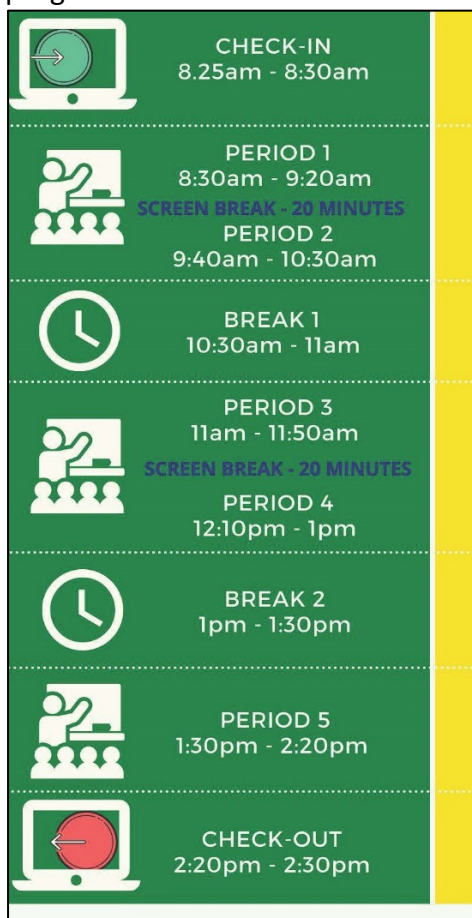
Student Timetables

It is important to note that this year students will be continuing to follow their EXISTING student timetable. There have been some minor changes over the holidays, so we do encourage you and your child to access the PHS [Learning From Home website](#).

If you would like further clarification of your child's classes, please contact the school and we can assist.

Class/Bell Times

The bell times chart below, shows how our online learning will be structured and suggests a routine to help you get motivated. Please note that we will be operating 50-minute lessons and we have scheduled in 20 minute screen time breaks during each double period of learning. This is based on feedback from students and parents last year and represents the research associated with online learning. We also believe this provides more equitable support for families who are sharing technology devices during the Learn From Home program.



NSW Department of Education

Remote learning guidelines for students and parents

- Stay connected** : Stay connected to your teacher and classmates.
- Workspace** : Work in a quiet area, at a desk or table and try to limit distractions.
- Focus** : During calls with your teacher, stay focused on the call. Avoid reading chats or looking at other tabs.
- Your normal routine** : Eat breakfast, brush your teeth and get dressed in the morning.
- Ask questions** : If you don't understand something, ask your teacher or classmates online.
- Use classroom language** : Talking to your teachers and in class is different from how you speak to your friends online. Use proper grammar and avoid excessive emojis.
- Take breaks** : Take breaks away from screen. Move around and try not to sit all day.

education.nsw.gov.au

Year 12

We understand the heightened anxiety and stress associated with the current disruptions as you prepare for your upcoming Trial HSC exams. Please know how committed your teachers are to seeing you achieve your goals and next steps. Earlier this week, the NESA COVID-19 Response Committee agreed to a two-week extension of the deadline for schools to submit their HSC assessment marks. We will not be making a decision in the first week of school regarding your Trial HSC exams. We encourage Year 12 students and parents to please read this week's NESA announcement. It can be accessed at:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/covid-19/coronavirus-advice>

Wellbeing Support

As you are aware, we have a dedicated Wellbeing Team that ensures student learning and wellbeing are prioritised. The team includes: myself; our Deputy Principals; our Head Teachers Wellbeing, Student Engagement and Learning Support; our School Psychologists; our Community Liaison Officers; our Year Advisors; and our Wellbeing Hub staff. Over the remote learning period, if you or your child needs additional support, please reach out to us via email or telephone and will endeavour to find the right staff member for your enquiry. Whilst our staff will be working remotely, we are still here to help!

Further support

For week one, print materials will be available for families who do not have access to a technology device. Weather permitting, we will operate a contactless drive-thru service. Parents will be permitted to drive into the main car park to collect the program of learning. We suggest that you contact the school on Tuesday 13th July confirm what time the printed packs will be ready. Teachers will be adding resources to this on the School Development Day.

In terms of technology, we will again be distributing laptops to families that are in need. Please contact the school later in the week on 9725-5444 for more information. Laptops will be distributed **if the lockdown continues beyond week one** of term.

We thank you for your time and your attention to this rapidly changing situation.

May I take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the teaching and non-teaching staff that have worked tirelessly, since the Premier's announcement, to move to learning from home. It is a difficult task for all the staff, especially when our portal is down!

We also realise that it is very difficult for parents who are working from home or still going out to work, to also supervise your children. High school students should be able to log onto their Google Classroom and work with the lessons provided without parental help. If they do have difficulty they should email their teachers or use the chat feature during the lesson. However, it is really important that students take breaks from the screen and also share devices with siblings if required and we do understand if students are unable to complete all the work provided. As long as each family does the best they can and your child is actively engaged in learning, do not stress about them absolutely completing everything.

We will continue to keep you updated and revise information as necessary. Please ensure you have downloaded the [Skoolbag App](#) or use [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to ensure we can stay in touch!

We also have a dedicated [COVID 19 Continuity of Education page](#) and an [Online Learning Information for PHS page](#) on our website, as we did last time and this is where all the information will be. We remind our Special Education families that there is also a dedicated [Special Education page](#) on this site.

Please follow the NSW Health guidelines and keep safe!

Yours sincerely,

Ms Belinda Giudice
Principal

