

8 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again I'd like to thank everyone in our wonderful school community for your continued support and patience as we plan and prepare for the phased return of our students to school. This plan is phased and flexible and will allow us to slowly bring our school back to 'normal' while making sure that the health, wellbeing and learning needs of students, staff and families are balanced. It is anticipated that all students will increase the number of days at school before the end of the term, under the advice of NSW Health and Department of Education.

Phase 1 – Students at school one day per week

Next Monday we move to Phase 1 of the NSW Government's and Department of Education's return to school model - with students gradually returning one day per week. Students will attend on a nominated day based on the first letter of their last name:

Monday – Last names starting with B, C, D, F, K

Wednesday – Last names starting with L, M, N, O, P

Thursday – Last names starting with I, S, T, V, W, Y, Z

Friday – Last names starting with A, E, G, H, J, R

The school remains open Monday to Friday for families who are unable to work from home or are unable to provide the necessary support or supervision at home. We ask you to continue to support the school by sending your child to school on their rostered day and keeping them at home, if possible, on the other four days to access online learning.

Our priority during this phase is for students to see and reconnect with their class teacher, who will be checking in on their learning and wellbeing and also for students to reconnect with their class mates. Teaching will remain as one unit of work at home and at school. This means that students who are learning at home will still complete the same work as those at school. On their school day, your child will complete the 'Learning at School Day' section of the grid.

Depending on the overall number of students attending each day (students attending on their nominated day and students who need to attend), your child may not necessarily be with their class teacher or their friends, as the size of each group is limited to 10 students, depending on the learning space.

During this phase, teachers will only be 'Zooming' with their class on Tuesdays, as they will be checking in with students on their attendance day.

Dropping Off and Picking Up Students

All parents and carers will need to remain off the school site so that we can minimise the chances of Covid-19 being brought on to school grounds. Please phone or email the school with any issues or concerns or contact your child's teacher through Seesaw.

Parents and carers are asked to kiss and drop at the allocated areas near the gates each morning and to wait at these areas in the afternoons, maintaining the required 1.5m from others at all times. In the afternoons, teachers will walk students to the gates. For safety reasons, students will be dismissed in the following order:

-Kindergarten

-Stage 1

-Stage 2

-Stage 3

Members of the Leadership Team will be at the gates before and after school to supervise arrivals and departures.

What to Bring

Due to health and safety issues, students will not be able to access the bubblers. Please make sure that your child has a drink bottle with them that they will be able to fill up from the tap in the classroom, if needed.

To avoid spreading germs through sharing school pens and pencils, all students are encouraged to bring in their own pens and pencils in a pencil case.

Recess and Lunch

There will be staggered recess and lunch breaks for all students. Games involving physical contact, close contact such as soccer, basketball or running 'tips' games or games requiring equipment will not be permitted during this phase. We ask that you please speak with your child about the importance of maintaining appropriate physical distancing during play times.

Birthday Celebrations

Unfortunately, we are unable to celebrate birthdays with cakes, cupcakes or other food until further notice.

What if my child is unwell?

Following the health advice from NSW Health and Department of Education, you must keep your child at home if they are unwell or displaying cold and/or flu-like symptoms. If your child is unwell at home they are not required to complete the learning activities for that day. Please ring the office to advise them that your child is sick and they will be recorded as 'sick' on the roll. If your child is unwell at school, they will be isolated and you will be contacted to collect your child as soon as possible.

I will continue to keep you informed of any changes made by the Department of Education to the planned phases, through the school website, Seesaw, the school app and the school Facebook page.

All of the staff at Marayong Heights are very excited and can't wait to see the smiling faces of our students as they start to return to school next week.

Kind regards,

Lisa

Lisa Littlejohn
(Principal)