

# Penrith South Public School

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### TERM 2 SCHOOL MANAGEMENT (COVID-19 UPDATE)

Dear Parents and Families.

I hope this finds you and your family well. While current circumstances limit social opportunities, I hope that you have enjoyed family time during this holiday period.

Recently, you may have heard the NSW Premier and Education Minister's announcement regarding school operations for NSW public schools in term 2. Please find a brief overview below, which is based on all available information at this time.

#### School Development Days

Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 April are for **Staff only**.

#### Term 2 commences for students on Wednesday 29 April

#### Week 1-2 Online Learning Continues

In weeks 1 and 2 of this term, students will continue to 'learn from home' as they did at the end of Term 1. Students will return to online learning via Google Classroom (K-6). Students who are experiencing challenges accessing online materials can arrange to pick up a home learning pack from our front office.

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'. As also announced by the NSW Premier, parents are encouraged 'to keep their children at home'.

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 (Please see further information below).

## Weeks 3-10 'Phased Managed Return' to School

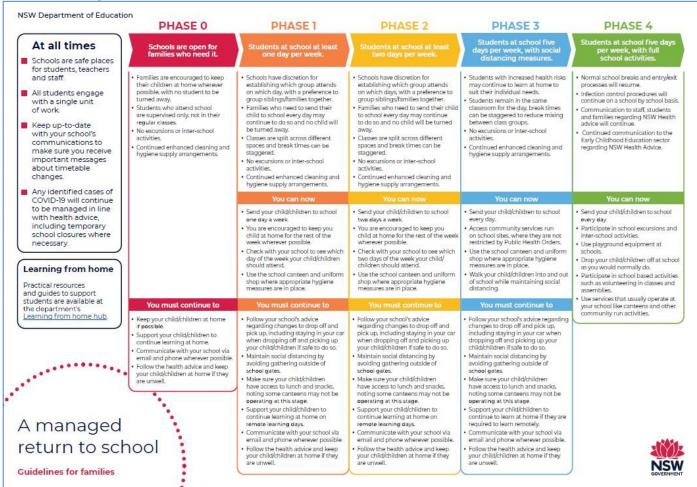
NSW Public Schools are looking to increase face-to-face teaching through a gradual return to school for students during Term 2. This will be done through a staged approach to balance the needs of students and staff, their families, personal circumstances and workplaces during the pandemic.

From Week 3, every student will have the opportunity to start attending school one day a week, with around 25% of students in attendance on any given day.

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.

During the first week of term 2, our staff will work through the Premier's operational guidelines to create a model for Penrith South Public School that will be communicated to you via our School App and Facebook page. We will also continue to adjust our plans based on any new advice we receive from the NSW Department of Education.





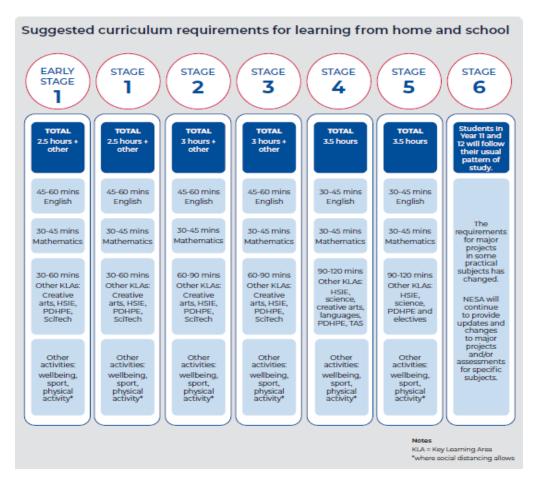
The Premier has stated that in Phase 1 children should be kept at home except for their 'rostered day' and has asked parents to 'respect the guidelines' that will be established by the school. Please note that this does not apply to those students who need to attend. We tracked the data of these students the last 3 weeks of Term 1 and this will be factored into ensuring that only 25% of students are on site on any given day.

#### Model of learning

Students learning either at home or at school will continue to engage in learning experiences provided by their teachers. Schools will plan and communicate the recommended time to be allocated to learning. Practical resources and guides to help students learning from home and school staff teaching from home are available at the department's Learning from home hub. <a href="https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/advice-to-parentsand-carers">https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home/advice-to-parentsand-carers</a>

We again 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 encourage you to aim for a balanced approach to learning at home. The table below outlines the recommended time allocations for students participating in learning at school or 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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.



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 Penrith South 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.

Kind regards,

Craig White

Rel. Principal