



23 April 2020

COVID-19 Return to Face-to-Face Teaching

Dear PCS Families,

I trust this letter finds you well. I am excited to write to you to inform you of the plan to have all students returned to full time face-to-face teaching over the coming months. If you have been following NSW Government advice, you would have seen the Premier announce that from Week 3, Department of Education schools will move to have all students attending school at least one day a week, with all students returning to full time face-to-face teaching by Term 3. As an independent school, we are given the freedom to implement our own plan to suit our own context, for which I am extremely grateful.

Below you will see a table that outlines when students will be expected to attend school for face-to-face teaching. It is important to point out some of the factors that have informed this planning. These include:

- NSW Government guidelines;
- COVID-19 statistics for the Parkes Shire;
- predicting the COVID-19 landscape in 3 weeks time;
- social distancing and hygiene measures here at school;
- the ability of different year groups to work independently from home;
- the pressure on families facilitating learning at home;
- expectation of teachers during the transition periods;
- and assessing which year groups would benefit the most from being back at school.

Return to Face to Face Teaching Timetable

	Number of days of face-to-face teaching at school						
	K	1/2	3/4	5/6	7/8	9/10	11/12
Week 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Week 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Week 3	5	5	1	1	1	1	3
Week 4	5	5	2	2	2	2	5
Week 5	5	5	5	5	2	2	5
Week 6	5	5	5	5	2	2	5
Week 7	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Week 8	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Week 9	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Week 10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

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What weekdays will my child attend school during the transition weeks?

Year 3 and 4 will attend school on Wednesday of Week 3 (13th May) and Wednesday and Thursday of Week 4 (20th and 21st of May).

Year 5 and 6 will attend school on Monday of Week 3 (11th May) and Monday and Tuesday of Week 4 (18th and 19th May).

Year 7 and 8 will attend school on Monday of Week 3 (11th May) and Monday and Tuesday of Week 4, 5, 6 (18th, 19th, 25th, 26th May and 1st and 2nd of June).

Year 9 and 10 will attend school on Friday of Week 3 (15th May) and Thursday and Friday of Week 4, 5, 6 (21st, 22nd, 28th, 29th May and 4th and 5th of June).

Year 11 and 12 will attend school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of Week 3 (12th, 13th and 14th May).

It is important to note that this return to face to face teaching plan is completely subject to change pending Government advice or factors that might impact on our own context, such as an increase in cases within the Parkes Shire. It could also be that this plan is changed to fast track a return to school if cases continue to fall significantly between now and May.

Most importantly, if you are not comfortable sending your child to school on the days indicated within this plan, I would invite you to give me a call or email so that we can work on a solution that suits school and home. This would certainly be applicable to vulnerable students with specific health conditions.

I have included a set of frequently asked questions and answers that might solve any queries you may have after reading this letter. Can I encourage you to read them carefully before getting in touch with any questions you may have.

Thank you again for your support through this difficult time. At Parkes Christian School we are all about teaching, learning and partnering with you to raise young men and women who are set to make a positive impact on this world. I am so thankful that we are finally on the path to bringing our students back so this important work can continue within a face to face context. For all of you who are finding this time particularly challenging, hang in there and let us support you through this transition time.

Warm regards,



Glen Westcott
Principal

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is happening during Week 1 and 2?

A. *Students will continue with At-Home learning procedures.*

Q. Can I still send my child to school if I need to during Week 1 and 2?

A. *Yes, children can still attend school if needed. They will be under teacher supervision and will continue with At-Home learning materials.*

Q. Can I still send my child to school during the Week 3-7 transition period on non face-to-face days?

A. *Yes, children can still attend school as needed during the transition period.*

Q. What will students in Year 3 - 6 be doing on the days they are at school?

A. *During the transition weeks, those students will have the At-Home learning material delivered to them by their class teacher in a face-to-face context. It will also be an opportunity to spend time together as a class.*

Q. What will students in Year 7 - 10 be doing on the days they attend school?

A. *On face-to-face days, students will receive instructional components of lessons and explanation of tasks that they can then work on independently from home on non face to face days. A new HS timetable has been developed to cater for changes during the transition weeks.*

Q. If I choose to keep my child at home once their class has gone back to full time face-to-face teaching, will the teacher still provide At-Home learning materials?

A. *No, once each class returns to full time face to face learning, At-Home materials will not be available. This is mainly due to the unrealistic demands that would be placed on teachers for that to occur. If you have a vulnerable child, family member or are generally uncomfortable sending your child to school at that point, please make contact so we can come up with a suitable plan.*

Q. Is this plan likely to change?

A. *The plan will change if needed to stay in line with Government guidelines or respond to factors affecting our local context. However, the school is confident that any changes will be around bringing certain year groups back to full time face-to-face earlier than planned.*

Q. Will the Forbes bus continue to run in Term 2?

A. *Yes, the Forbes bus will continue to run each day from Monday of Week 1.*

Q. When can I pick up materials for my K-2 child for Week 1 At-Home learning?

A. *Resource packs will be available from 8:30am on Tuesday morning of Week 1.*

Q. If my child is planning an HSC Major Work, can they attend school on non face-to-face days?

A. *Yes, your child can attend school as needed to plan Major Works. Please contact the School to make arrangements.*