

ORANGE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL



Safe Respectful Learners

OEPS UPDATE 10 – 1 MAY 2020

Week 3 School Operations

Dear Parents and carers,

Over the past week, we have worked hard to plan for the upcoming move in Week 3 to Phase 1 of the NSW Department of Education's plan where students will begin returning to school one day per week. As you could imagine, this has been incredibly complex as there are many factors to consider around health guidelines, community needs as well as school and staff structures. We have looked carefully at our parent survey information and correspondence with families.

The Rationale

By the close of the survey, the result as to a preferred model became very close and in reviewing a number of open-ended responses to suggestions or feedback for the school, parents clearly valued their children reconnecting with friends and that families really wanted alignment of their children's days. In light of this information we have designed our structure to support both preferences to the best of our ability. The guiding rationale for our decisions are summarised below:

- The model needs to support a safe return for students and staff where we can maintain the correct health care procedures and guidelines to the best of our ability.
- Connection is critical – when at school, we want our students to spend time with their regular class teacher/teacher's aide and some friends as much as possible.
- When students are on site, we want to make it count.
- Staff workload needs to be carefully and reasonably balanced. We want to continue to support a quality remote learning program for the other four days that's students will not attend but provide a high value day when they do attend.
- The model we put in place needs to be adaptable as we move through the phases of student return. We do not want to redesign the model every time we move into a new phase. Everyone has had enough of change being the only constant!

Phase 1

- Phase 1 commences Week 3, Monday 11th May.

PHASE 1

Students at school at least one day per week.

- Schools have discretion for establishing which group attends on which day, with a preference to group siblings/families together.
- Families who need to send their child to school every day may continue to do so and no child will be turned away.
- Classes are split across different spaces and break times can be staggered.
- No excursions or inter-school activities.
- Continued enhanced cleaning and hygiene supply arrangements.

You can now

- Send your child/children to school one day a week.
- You are encouraged to keep your child at home for the rest of the week wherever possible.
- Check with your school to see which day of the week your child/children should attend.
- Use the school canteen and uniform shop where appropriate hygiene measures are in place.

You must continue to

- Follow your school's advice regarding changes to drop off and pick up, including staying in your car when dropping off and picking up your child/children if safe to do so.
- Maintain social distancing by avoiding gathering outside of school gates.
- Make sure your child/children have access to lunch and snacks, noting some canteens may not be operating at this stage.
- Support your child/children to continue learning at home on remote learning days.
- Communicate with your school via email and phone wherever possible.
- Follow the health advice and keep your child/children at home if they are unwell.

Orange East PS Operational Structure

- All students will be allocated one day per week to attend school, with different groups attending across the 5 days.
- During this day they will be taught some lessons from the home learning package as well as supplementary content we target as highly important.
- Students will attend their regular classroom with their regular teacher. The teacher will be with the students for most of the day however will be released for a portion of time during some days to manage and give feedback to students learning from home. The person replacing the teacher will be another known staff member who will continue with engaging, planned activities.
- We have kept families on the same day.
- We have attempted to ensure that on each student's day, they have a couple of friends also attending from their class.
- Students will come to school in regular school uniform.
- They will not need to bring their home learning pack with them – just their regular school supplies.
- Stage 3 students will not need to bring their Chromebook back to school yet.
- The canteen will not reopen in Week 3. We are looking at options to reopen later in the term utilising an online ordering/payment platform.
- Parents are still encouraged to keep their child/children at home on the other 4 days of the week. Home learning packs/resources will continue to be provided for all students.

Attendance Requirements

- A number of parents have sought clarification as to whether attending 1 day per week will be compulsory from Week 3. The Department of Education and NSW Government advice is that it is safe for children to attend. However, if parents are still concerned around possible virus transmission or risk to other household members, you still have the option to continue full home schooling. I encourage parents to contact me closer to Week 3 if you are considering the continuation of full home schooling. This guidance may change later in the term – if so I will advise parents and carers of any new guidelines as quickly as possible.

Notification to Parents

- Later today (Friday, 1st May) class teachers will send messages via Class Dojo to all parents and carers notifying you of your child/children's allotted day for Week 3 onward.
- If you are not signed up to Class Dojo you can contact the school office to get this information. Teachers will also email or call any parents on Monday not signed up on Class Dojo.
- The formation of the groupings has been the result of much work, collation of information and consultation with teachers. If you have a question relating to your child's grouping, please direct your communication to the relevant Assistant Principal/s for the stage. Class teachers are unable to make changes to the roster due to the potential for unintended/unknown impacts on other groups or conflict with DOE guidelines.

Year Group/Stage	Assistant Principal	Email
Kindergarten – Early Stage 1	Peter Cook	peter.cook46@det.nsw.edu.au
Year 1/2 – Stage 1	Bree Wright (IL) Tracey Press	bree.dalton@det.nsw.edu.au tracey.press1@det.nsw.edu.au
Year 3/4 – Stage 2	Toni MacLean	toni.ross@det.nsw.edu.au
Year 5/6 – Stage 3	Alison Croker	alison.croker@det.nsw.edu.au

Parents Without Supervision Alternatives

- From Wednesday 29th April onwards, our school remains open as does all NSW Public schools for parents who have no other option but to send their child to school. These students will operate in their regular classroom from Week 3 completing the work described above.

Sick Children

- With regards to students who are ill, on the advice of Mark Scott, Secretary of the DoE, I ask that parents please keep children home if they are feeling unwell. This includes *'if your child has a cold, fever, cough, sore throat, any respiratory illness or flu-like symptoms. By attending school, they could be putting other students and adults at risk'*. He reiterates that *'this is not the time for soldiering on'*. This remains of critical importance.

SOME REMINDERS

Current school precautions and operational changes still in place

- The School Canteen remains closed and our Breakfast Club program is not operating.
- Cancellation or postponing of special events, excursions, assemblies and external sports activities.
- No COLA assemblies
- No school bubblers. A reminder to please ensure that your child/children come to school with a labelled drink bottle.
- Recess/lunch time eating areas have been spread out to support social distancing.
- Personal hygiene practices are regularly taught and reinforced, including supervised hand washing throughout the day.
- All wet areas adjacent to classrooms have been supplied with hand wash and paper towel. Classrooms have been supplied with surface spray for wiping down desks, door handles, etc at the end of each learning period. Teachers have been instructed to have students wash hands at the end of the morning and before/after recess and lunch. The student toilets are being constantly stocked with soap.
- The Department has provided our school with additional hours of cleaning each day.

Parents and Carers Coming On-site at Orange East

- From Week 3, we ask that parents and carers minimise or avoid coming on school site. The reason we ask this is to support the lowest possible chance of virus transmission and protect the safety of staff and students. Some points of guidance:
 - While we understand that parents may want to escort younger children into/out of the school, particularly if anxious, we are hoping that primary age students are able to move in/out unescorted in most instances.
 - We are asking all parents/carers not to enter classrooms or hallways inside school grounds.
 - We are urging parents/carers that must come on to the school site in the morning or afternoon to observe social distancing from other parents, students or staff of approximately 2 metres where possible.
 - We are asking that all payments being made to the school office are made by either online payment or using the EFTPOS facilities in the office.
 - Please consider carefully the need to come into the school office. We are requesting that where possible, parents and carers phone or email the office with regard any queries. The office foyer is now restricted to one parent/carer in at a time, with additional people waiting outside.

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your patience while we have worked to design our plan. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the executive team for their hard work in the initial steps of designing and implementing this system.

Please contact the school office should you have any questions or concerns. I will endeavour to answer personally or include the answers in future updates. Thank you as always for the wonderful support and encouragement you continue to provide to the school.

Regards,

Glen Bourke

Principal - OEPS