

# ORANGE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL



*Safe Respectful Learners*

## **OEPS UPDATE 11 – 10<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**

Dear Parents and carers,

This is an update containing a few reminders and answers/clarifications to recent questions about school operations. All NSW Department of Education schools commence Phase 1 of students returning to school this week, starting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

In Phase 1 students return to school 1 day per week on a designated day communicated by the school. In Week 1 and early Week 2, all parents and carers were sent a message via Class Dojo notifying you of your child/children's allocated day. If you are unsure of your child/children's day please contact the Assistant Principal of your child's stage for further information.

**A reminder to parents and carers that this is the first step in students returning to school. The NSW Government and Department of Education are still urging parents to continue home learning for children on the other four days of the school week. We have based our school plan for Phase 1 on working to minimise student attendance to approximately 20% per day across all grades. This strategy is important in supporting the school to maintain spacing within classrooms and the playground as well continuing heightened sanitation and hygiene practices.**

### **Phase 1**

- Phase 1 commences Week 3, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 for Phase 1**

- All students have been 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 and have attempted to ensure that on each student's day, they have a couple of friends also attending from their class.
- Parents are still asked 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.

### **School Entrances and Start/Finish Times**

- Due to the school having four entrance/exit points and the smaller student numbers in Phase 1, we will continue to use our regular school gates with no change to start/finish times.
- A reminder that 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.

### **Student Requirements**

- **Students 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.**
- Students will come to school in regular school uniform. For laundering purposes sports uniform can be worn on Wednesday, however sport/fitness activities will be distributed across the week.
- The canteen will not reopen in Week 3. We are looking at options to reopen for lunch orders only in either Week 4 or 5, with a modified ordering and payment system. Further information to come.
- Students need to bring a packed recess/lunch and a labelled water bottle is also a must – the bubblers are still not being used.
- Students can bring their school bag with all regular classroom equipment.
- Don't forget hats/beanies and jumpers – it looks like being a cold week!

### **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 myself or the Stage Assistant Principal if you are continuing 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.

### **Parents Without Supervision Alternatives**

- Our school remains open, as do all NSW Public schools for parents and carers 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.**

### **An Important Shared Message with Children**

- We are asking parents to support four important key messages with children that form the core of our school strategy to support student and staff safety for the times ahead:
  1. Clean your hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser.
  2. Cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze or cough.
  3. Tell your teacher or another adult if you are feeling sick.
  4. Keep a safe distance around you and respect others space.
- These are tricky times for us all but particularly our little people who may be feeling a range of emotions as they adjust to the current world. Please let us know if you or your child/children need support – we are always here to help.

## **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 – students will continue to assemble near their classroom at the end of each break time.
- 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.
- 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.

### ***Assistant Principal/Principal Contact Details***

Year Group/Stage	Assistant Principal	Email
Kindergarten – Early Stage 1	Peter Cook	<a href="mailto:peter.cook46@det.nsw.edu.au">peter.cook46@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
Year 1/2 – Stage 1	Bree Wright (IL) Tracey Press	<a href="mailto:bree.dalton@det.nsw.edu.au">bree.dalton@det.nsw.edu.au</a> <a href="mailto:tracey.press1@det.nsw.edu.au">tracey.press1@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
Year 3/4 – Stage 2	Toni MacLean	<a href="mailto:toni.ross@det.nsw.edu.au">toni.ross@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
Year 5/6 – Stage 3	Alison Croker	<a href="mailto:alison.croker@det.nsw.edu.au">alison.croker@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
	Glen Bourke (Principal)	<a href="mailto:glen.bourke@det.nsw.edu.au">glen.bourke@det.nsw.edu.au</a>

As always, a very genuine thank you for the continued support of our community. All of the above complexities aside, we are so looking forward to seeing our kids back, even if only for a day a week initially and hopefully building to more regular attendance in the near future. Children are the absolute heart of a school and it really is no fun without them!

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.

Regards,

*Glen Bourke*  
Principal - OEPS