

# Coutts Crossing Public School

# Newsletter



Ph: 6649 3225

Email: [couttscros-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:couttscros-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Web: [couttscros-p.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://couttscros-p.schools.nsw.gov.au)

Week 8 – 15th June 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

With the easing of restrictions across NSW, the Department of Education has announced some updated guidelines for NSW schools. Beginning this week, we will start to implement these new changes at our school but many restrictions will still apply. The easing of restrictions allows us to begin the slow process of returning to a new kind of normal. However, many of the hygiene protocols adopted during the pandemic are a welcome addition to our school and will remain as part of our usual procedures.

We have had quite a few students with cold and flu symptoms in recent weeks, and I'd like to thank our parents for their support in keeping those students at home while they are unwell. This assists us to keep our school a healthy environment for all students and staff.

An updated version of *A guide to NSW school students returning to face-to-face learning for parents and carers* will be available as an addition to our digital newsletter. The latest COVID-19 advice is also available on the NSW DoE website.

*Michelle Dalgliesh*

## Winter uniform

We have received a few enquiries about what colour tracksuit pants, tights or long pants should be worn with the new school uniform. The new uniform includes black bottoms, including shorts, skorts, or any black winter wear selection from the school wear range at most major retailers.

If your child is still wearing their maroon tracksuit pants (old uniform) from previous years, that is completely fine while we transition between old and new uniforms over the next few years. Most importantly, we would like all students to be in uniform, old or new, and nice and warm!

This Week	Next Week	Coming Up
Fri– Netball for 4/5/6	Wed– Assembly (students and staff only)	Friday 3rd July - last day of Term 2

## Visitors

Non-essential adults are still not permitted on school grounds or at school events – this includes parents/carers, unless specifically approved by the principal. Any external providers and visitors are required to demonstrate compliance with health and safety requirements including adhering to strict guidelines (including relevant hygiene, distancing and safety protocols) and completing relevant forms on entering the site.

Please continue to contact the school via phone or email, rather than attend the school office in person.

## Pick up and drop off

Our current 'kiss, drop and go' policy will continue to be in place for the remainder of this term and may continue into Term 3.

Thank you to all our families for ensuring they stay outside the school gates or in their cars during drop off and pick up times. Since adopting the 'kiss, drop and go' policy at our school, teachers have noticed an improvement in the independence, resilience and maturity of students, particularly our infants students. It has been wonderful to see our students build confidence and self-reliance as they carry their own bags to class and organise their own belongings independently each morning.

## Hygiene at school

As restrictions begin to ease, be assured that our current enhanced hygiene protocols will continue. Every classroom sink has a hands free soap dispenser, disposable hand towels and hand sanitiser, all utilised regularly throughout the day. It is our hope that students will continue to develop and maintain healthy hygiene habits at school.

## P&C meetings

We are pleased to announce P&C meetings will be allowed to occur in Term 3. Although the Department has indicated a strong preference for on-line meetings where possible, our school hall provides a large open space enabling us to comply with current social distancing expectations. We will confirm a meeting date in the next newsletter.

## Canteen

We are pleased to announce that we are making preparations for the canteen to open soon. A date will be confirmed next week. Please contact the school office if you would like to be included on the canteen roster and advise your preferences for days/dates. We always welcome new volunteers!

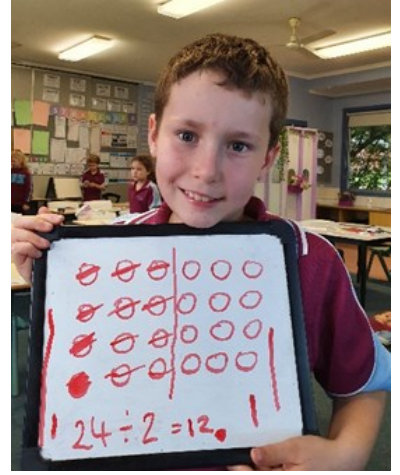
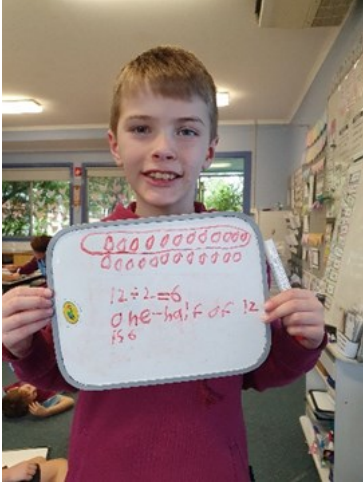
A current, updated canteen menu will be issued before the end of term.

Thank you to our canteen volunteers and P&C members.



## Classroom News - 2/3/4

Since our return to school 2/3/4 have been working really hard, especially during their numeracy sessions. Each day they work on their multiplication facts and this week they have started digging deeper into their knowledge of fractions. Some of 2/3/4 have been able to use their understanding of fractions to match equivalent decimals and percentages. 2/3/4 have done an amazing job learning from each other and sharing their ideas.



## Assemblies

Whole school assemblies are now allowed, although they are limited to 15 minutes and external visitors are not permitted to attend. We held our first morning assembly this morning, led by our fabulous school captains Megan and Traice, and it was a wonderful opportunity for the whole school to be together again to hear the morning messages. We are all very excited to have some aspects of school life returning to a 'new normal'. Fortnightly whole school assemblies (for students and staff only) will resume from next Wednesday afternoon with an amended format to meet the reduced time frame. Congratulations to our Week 7 virtual assembly class award winners - pictured.



The lucky winners of the Cool Card draw on Friday were Oliver B and Ivy.



Kayden and Archie were the only students to pick correctly in our 'teacher's favourite book' competition, winning a cool card each.



## Gardening

Our gardening group is still working hard cleaning and mulching our garden beds.

Big thanks to Milla and Rush's family for donating a box of new plants for the garden outside the 2/3/4 classroom. Students enjoyed designing the garden bed and planting the new succulents and we are all looking forward to watching them grow.



## Violin lessons

We are pleased to announce external providers of creative arts are now permitted on site so violin lessons are allowed to continue at school. For those students who were selected to be in the violin group earlier in Term 1, lessons will resume in the first week back of Term 3, in the school hall on Thursday, 23rd July. All hygiene precautions will be followed to ensure the safety of instructors and participating students.

## Senior excursion reminder

The major excursion for Years 5 & 6 to Lake Ainsworth Sport & Recreation Centre is still scheduled to go ahead in **week 10 of Term 3**. While this situation could change, we would like to remind parents that major excursions have a significant cost involved - in the range of \$400. Please consider starting a savings plan for the excursion to reduce the financial burden at the time. It is possible to make advance payments online, with any advance payments being fully refundable if the excursion is cancelled.

## Jumpers

It is not just our students enjoying the new school jumpers. Our staff are also appreciating the warmth and comfort of our new school hoodies. Stock has been selling out fast so we have just placed another order of school jumpers which will be arriving soon. Jumpers are available for purchase at \$38 each.

If you would like to place an order, please pay online and contact the office to confirm sizing. Please note we have ordered limited stock in each size so it's first in, best dressed!





# This guide is for parents and carers

A guide to NSW school students returning to face-to-face learning

Information has been updated as at 11 June 2020, until further notice.



# In line with health advice, schools are operating full time, and many additional activities are now able to recommence

All schools have returned to full-time on-campus learning. With updated health advice and changes to state and national restrictions, schools are able to recommence the majority of school-based activities from either 15 June 2020 or the start of Term 3 (20 July 2020). Some activities are continuing to be considered.

The following principles underpin these guidelines:

- schools continue to be safe and operations are in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health guidelines
- existing infection control protocols at schools, and new health and safety measures put in place will help maintain the health and safety of students and staff
- all activities permitted at school are safe and appropriate in a living with COVID-19 environment.

School students do not need to follow strict adult physical distancing guidelines, but should follow good hygiene practices like:

- regularly washing hands
- avoiding sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately
- filling water bottles from bubblers rather than using the bubbler directly.



## School attendance

All students should be at school unless:

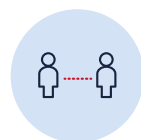
- they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition and the expected timeframe
- they are currently unwell.



## School activities/ school site usage

The majority of school-based activities can recommence, as long as the following measures are observed:

- all visitors and external to school providers must adhere to relevant hygiene, distancing and safety protocols
- principals may continue to restrict, limit or prohibit activities if they are seen as contrary to the current health advice
- external providers and visitors are required to demonstrate compliance with health and safety requirements including adhering to strict guidelines and completing relevant forms
- non-essential adults are still not permitted on school grounds or at school events – this **includes parents/carers** unless specifically approved by the principal.



## Physical distancing

Physical distancing of children in schools is not required under the Australian HPPC guidelines. Research has shown limited transmission risk associated with school children in the school environment.

All adults must maintain physical distance from each other (1.5m) including teachers and support staff, and parents.

Schools should ensure school pick up and drop off arrangements enable parents to physically distance from one another and from staff.



## School cleaning and hygiene supplies

Your school will continue to receive additional cleaning in line with the AHPPC guidelines and advice from NSW Health. Target areas include high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails in stairways and movement areas. There will also be additional cleaning of toilets and bubblers and topping up of supplies like soap.

Your school has received supplies of soap, hand sanitiser, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes and personal protective equipment. The school is able to order more as needed.



## School activities return and timeline

Activities/site usage that can already take place:

- Use the school library
- Engage in non-contact sporting activities
- Canteens and uniform shops can open at principal's discretion
- Year 11 and 12 students only may attend classes/activities relating to subjects only available on other campuses is allowed

- VET work placement for Year 12 students is able to proceed from 1 June 2020. School based apprenticeships and traineeships can recommence once the relevant workplaces are back in operation
- Trade Training Centres can operate on school sites.

Activities/site usage that can take place from Monday 15 June 2020

- School assemblies (limited to 15 minutes and no external visitors)
- Choirs and performing arts at school, with safety protocols in place
- Students may attend other schools for essential curriculum related reasons or placements (e.g. auditions or placement tests)
- Hydrotherapy pools can be used
- Incursions/external providers can provide activities that support delivery of curriculum (e.g. music tutors, sport skills development programs, science demonstrations, drama tutors, Healthy Harold).
- Community use activities used by students such as dance classes, and student sport skills development, outside of school hours with limited adult attendance)
- Day field trips to outdoor locations with no physical distancing requirements can take place
- Face to face TAFE attendance (see TAFE website for further information)
- School photos
- Department of Community and Justice services and programs.

Activities/site usage that can take place from beginning of Term 3

- All school sport and activities including competitions aligned with current health advice (including those activities run by external organisations)





- Inter-school student events and competitions (choirs, sport, debating, public speaking, performing arts, Selective Sports High School trials etc)
- SRE/SEE lessons
- Work experience for students
- VET work placements can proceed subject to the availability of placement and appropriate risk assessments. For any that can't proceed, please see [the NESA website](#)
- School based apprenticeships and traineeships can recommence once the relevant workplaces are back in operation
- P&C meetings – with a strong preference for on-line where possible
- Parent/teacher meetings – where these need to take place – strong preference for on-line where possible unless involving serious matters that require face to face discussion
- Community use activities involving general adult attendance (such as community markets).

### Activities under consideration from Term 3

The following events will be reconsidered in Term 3. For now these events must remain on hold.

- School camps
- Excursions (other than field trips explained above)
- Parent attendance at assemblies and other school events (e.g. graduation ceremonies or student speech events)
- Parent volunteers – e.g. parent reading helpers (note: canteen and uniform shop volunteers are permitted)
- Interstate excursions
- School based activities that involve large gathering of adults are not permitted at this time. These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, working bees, fundraisers, school BBQs, large parent information evenings, and large on-site cultural events. These large gatherings and the following activities will continue to be reviewed and assessed based on AHPPC and NSW Health advice and may be permitted at a later date.

### Activities that are cancelled, delayed or not permitted

Certain large arts and sports events are cancelled or delayed because they require feeder activities and have long-lead time organisational arrangements. Please speak to your schools if you would like to know more.

International excursions are cancelled until further notice.



### Reporting and assessment

You will receive your child's semester 1 report before the end of August (Week 6, Term 3).

This will be a simplified version of the report you normally receive. Schools are encouraged to discuss your child's progress with you before the written report is issued.



### Responding to COVID-19 cases

There is a clear plan in place for schools to respond to any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our schools. We are working closely with NSW Health and will communicate with parents if a situation arises. Find out more at the [response protocols page](#).



### Transport

For travel advice to and from school refer to the NSW [public transport service](#).



## Say hello

📌 @NSWDepartmentofEducation  
🐦 @NSWEducation  
📷 @NSWEducation  
[education.nsw.gov.au](https://education.nsw.gov.au)

© 2020 NSW Department of Education  
GPO Box 33 Sydney NSW 2001 Australia  
T 1300 679 332

