



CANTERBURY SOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOL



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CSPS Chatterbox - Week 2 Term 3 2022

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to Term 3

Welcome back to Term 3, I trust that everyone had a relaxing holiday and enjoyed catching up with family and friends. It is wonderful to see our students and staff back excited and ready for another fun filled term of learning.

Students were equally excited and overwhelmed by the new building and open space last week. Their response to lessons has been positive and energetic. This is a credit to our agile students and also our amazing teaching staff who have successfully ensured a smooth transition in the lead up to teaching and learning in the hubs.

Leave

Beginning today and until mid-August, I will be on extended leave. During this time Mrs Rigby will be relieving as Principal. I know that Mrs Rigby, the Executive team and staff will do an amazing job at running the school in my absence. I look forward to hearing about all that has happened on my return.

Covid Smart Settings in Term 3

As we continue to prioritise student and staff learning and wellbeing while at school, our layered COVID-smart measures will continue for Term 3. These 'baseline measures' are aligned to the NSW Government's general community settings and include:

- staying home and getting tested if unwell, and only attending school when symptom free
- strongly encouraging mask-wearing for all staff and students, particularly in the first 4 weeks of term

- rapid antigen testing for symptomatic students and staff, and close contacts attending school to learn and work
- strongly encouraging COVID-19 vaccinations for students, staff and their families, including a booster shot (when eligible)
- strict requirements for close contacts attending school
- good hygiene practices
- maximising natural ventilation
- boosted cleaning during the day, with particular attention given to high touch surface areas
- responding to local COVID-19 conditions when necessary, by working with the department's Health, Safety and Staff Wellbeing team.

Continuing these baseline COVID-smart measures allows us to prioritise student and staff wellbeing while giving our learners a consistent and productive learning environment this term.

What's continuing for Term 3?

Masks

Masks are an effective way of minimising the transmission of respiratory viruses and infections, and protecting our community, especially those who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and flu. We strongly encourage all students and staff wear a mask for the first 4 weeks of Term 3, particularly in indoor settings or when distancing is not possible.

The latest NSW Health advice also recommends wearing a mask for people who have recovered from COVID-19 and recently completed their 7-day isolation period for an additional 3 days (from days 8 to 10 after receiving a positive COVID-19 result).

Additionally, as outlined in the below section on close contacts, mask wearing is mandatory for staff and strongly recommended for primary school students returning to school as close contacts for 5 school days. Students or staff identified as close contacts who are unable to wear a mask will be supported to learn or work remotely.

Rapid antigen tests (RATs)

The department will send another round of RATs to our school early this term, which we will provide to you in the form of 1 multipack of 5 RAT kits per student. These RATs can be used as required for symptomatic testing, such as if your child is displaying even mild symptoms.

Beyond this provision, if you require additional RATs let the school know that you need more and we will try and assist. Additionally, our school will be maintaining a reserve stock of RATs onsite to support symptomatic testing in the event of an outbreak in our school community.

Please also remember that positive RAT results must be registered with Service NSW, and students who test positive to COVID-19 must not attend school until their isolation period ends and they are symptom free.

Close contacts

Students identified as close contacts remain able to attend school providing they are symptom free, notify the school and return a negative COVID-19 test result daily for 5 consecutive school days.

Primary students, while not required, are strongly encouraged to wear a mask for 5 consecutive school days (except when eating/drinking or exercising). Please note that students identified as close contacts are still unable to attend overnight excursions, including camps. Visitors identified as close contacts who are engaging directly with students are required to return a negative COVID-19 test result before attending our school and wear a mask.

Responding to our local situation

We will continue to liaise with NSW Health and the department's Health, Safety and Staff Wellbeing Case Management team to ensure our COVID-smart settings keep up with the latest developments. If local conditions require it, this may mean reintroducing temporary additional COVID-smart measures to act as a 'circuit breaker', including:

- mandating mask wearing for all staff (primary school settings)
- postponing or limiting non-essential activities like excursions, indoor assemblies and visitors to the school
- directing cohorts to learn remotely for short periods of time.

Maximising natural ventilation

The department has reviewed environmental differences across NSW as part of their winter ventilation planning to ensure that local climatic conditions at each school are considered. The department will continue to provide local guidance to schools, including advice on maximising natural ventilation while balancing thermal comfort and the use of indoor and outdoor

learning areas for school activities to support schools to adapt to local climate conditions throughout the winter months.

Finally, it is important to note NSW Health's advice to reduce our risk of not only COVID-19, but other illnesses that may affect our school at this time of year such as the flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) both of which can be serious in younger people. We can all protect our loved ones and our community by:

- staying home and getting tested if unwell or displaying any symptoms
- keeping up to date with our vaccinations – including the flu vaccine, which is available from your local GP, pharmacy or Aboriginal Medical Service now
- flu vaccines are free for all children aged 6 months to under 5 years, or for a small charge for those aged 5 years and older
- getting tested immediately for COVID-19 if you become symptomatic and isolating until you receive a negative result and are symptom free
- practicing good hand hygiene by washing regularly with soap and water
- taking a RAT before visiting vulnerable loved ones or going to large gatherings and events.





CANTERBURY SOUTH
PUBLIC SCHOOL



WELCOME TO OUR NEW SCHOOL August 1st - 5th 2022

EDUCATION WEEK

Creating Futures
Education Changes Lives

Monday

Education Week Live Steam Video 10am

Tuesday

Buddy Classrooms

Wednesday

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

9:15 - 10:00am

Morning Tea 10:00 - 10:30am

Open Classroom 10:30 - 11:15am

Thursday

K-6 Lunch Sausage Sizzle

Friday

Video Showcase via Seesaw

Mrs D Frasca

Principal

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY NEWS

Basketball Buddies

Our Stage 3 students spent time with the younger cohorts teaching them how to shoot and play the game of Basketball.



Our Education Week COVID safe plan includes adults wearing masks indoors

- We will proceed with our Education Week Whole School Assembly on Wednesday 3 August. All adults attending the event will be asked to wear a mask indoors at the Assembly and inside the classrooms. Masks will be available on the day. Please stay home and get tested if unwell or displaying any symptoms.

Smart watches

A smartwatch is a portable device that is designed to be worn on a wrist. Like smartphones, they use touchscreens, offer apps, and often record your heart rate and other vital signs. While these devices offer some great opportunities, they can cause disruption in classrooms and on the playground and can be used inappropriately to access social media, make recordings and take photos without permission. This can cause distress and breach the privacy of others.

We are noticing more students wearing smart watches to school and they are becoming increasingly distracting. Our school has decided that there is a need to work towards a usage at school policy. It is our preference that smart watches are not connected to phones and data during school hours. Watches that prove to be a distraction may be removed by class teachers until the end of the school day. All communication with your child during school hours must take place via our school office.

Our new learning space

Week 1 in our new future focused learning spaces.



Together we can Parent Workshop 3

Our next workshop will take place after the assembly, this Friday 29 July.

We will be discussing our co-teaching learning environments and answering any questions that you may have about learning in contemporary hubs.

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