



Dear Parents,

The NSW government has decided to continue with the lockdown of the Greater Sydney area. Therefore, our school will commence the term with remote teaching and learning. I have provided a series of questions and answers below, which I trust will be helpful.

When will remote learning start and finish?

Remote learning will start on Monday 19 July and will continue until at least Friday 30 July.

Should I keep my child at home?

The Association of Independent Schools (AIS) has advised schools that the current regulations require learning from home; however, schools will remain open for families who are unable to supervise their children at home.

Advice from NSW Health is that parents and carers should not send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms. The school is obliged to send students home if they have symptoms.

Junior School

How will learning from home (remote learning) work in the Junior School?

Remote learning in the Junior School can be accessed via the [Junior School Hub](#) for Prep to Year 2 students and by accessing the Class Google Classroom for Years 3-6. Class teachers will send parents of children in their class an email with links and other helpful information. Junior School parents should contact their child's class teacher by email in the first instance if they have questions or concerns about their child's learning. Please bear in mind that it could take a teacher several days to reply to parent emails.

See below for information on how to email a staff member.

The school has created a [Junior School poster](#) to help parents and students make the most of remote learning.

Will Junior School students need to use a device to learn at home?

Prep - Year 2 will need a device to access remote learning activities posted on the Junior School Hub. The device could be a smart phone, tablet, iPad or computer. They will need access to the device at various times throughout the day to watch videos and access work. Unfortunately the school is unable to provide a device for P-2 at this time.



Years 3 - 6 will need to use a device. The arrangements for parents who wish to come to school to pick up a school Chromebook will be sent in a separate email. If families need to pick up a school chromebook to use at home, I have been advised that parents are allowed to travel to school for this reason.

Teachers have prepared resources that can be collected from school. An email will be sent soon to explain pick up arrangements.

Secondary School

How will learning from home (remote learning) work in the Secondary School?

Remote lessons will occur according to the usual Secondary School timetable, with a small modification to round off the period times. Friday "bell times" will be the same as Monday to Thursday. The school has created a [Secondary Learning at Home poster](#) to help parents and students make the most of remote learning – the daily period times are listed here along with guidance to students for accessing their lessons. If you have a home printer it would be helpful to print this out and put it up in your child's workspace.

As outlined in the poster, students will begin each period by going to Google Classroom for their subject and clicking the link to Zoom, where teachers will mark the roll and begin the lesson.

Due to the demanding nature of remote learning, it is important for students to take regular breaks throughout the day from the screen. Teachers will incorporate downtime into the end of each period to allow breathing space between the lessons.

If parents have a concern about their child's learning in a particular subject, they should send an email to the teacher of that subject. If parents have a more holistic or welfare based concern for their child, they should contact the child's pastoral care teacher or year coordinator. Students experiencing technology difficulties should put a helpdesk ticket in or email helpdesk@shirechristian.nsw.edu.au.

See below for information on how to email a staff member.

What arrangements are being made for Year 12?

Mr Stonestreet sent an email to Year 12 parents and students on Monday 12/7 and will continue to keep them informed regarding HSC trial exams, major works, HSC practical exams and other issues specific to Year 12 students.

Additional Information



How will the school teach students who come to the school site during remote learning?

The AIS has advised that schools should have minimum staff on site to oversee one unit of learning.

Secondary School students who attend school onsite will be supervised in the library or a classroom where they will complete the same remote learning program outlined above. Students are asked to come prepared with their Chromebook, relevant workbooks, headphones and their laptop charger (as Zoom video has a large drain on the battery).

Junior School students will complete the same work as the students learning from home. They will be supervised by Junior School and Learning Support staff.

Can parents and visitors come onto the school site?

The AIS has advised schools that non-essential visitors are not permitted on school sites. Anyone who comes to the school must wear a mask and check in using the Service NSW QR code and sign in at the front desk.

If parents need to send their children to school during remote learning, what are the drop and pick up arrangements?

P-12 drop off arrangements - Parents should drop off their children in the bus bay from 8am. Please do not walk your son or daughter into the school unless they are unable to manage on their own. If this is the case, please only walk as far as the breezeway doors and check in using the Service NSW QR code.

K-2 pick up arrangements - Please come to the front gate, check in using the QR code that will be fixed to the fence. Wait on the oval near the front entrance wearing a mask. Please practice physical distancing.

3-12 pick up arrangements - If possible, please wait in your car for your son or daughter to come to you. Before your child leaves for school in the morning, please let him/her know roughly where you will park the car in the afternoon. If this is not possible, please come to the front gate, check in using the QR code that will be fixed to the fence. Wait on the oval near the front entrance wearing a mask. Please practice physical distancing.

Shire Prep arrangements - Parents are asked to:

- Use the drop off zone in the morning. We will have a Prep staff member greet your child at the school drop off zone in the bus bay.
- Wait on the front oval at the end of the day. Your Prep child will be brought to you at 2:35pm with Kindergarten students.
- Wear a mask and practice appropriate physical distancing while waiting.



Will the buses continue to operate as per their regular timetables?

Yes

Will Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) be available?

Camp Australia will continue to provide before and after school care and will communicate with regular users separately. Camp Australia has asked that families re-register for this service.

Will students and teachers be required to wear a face mask?

All students from Year 7 to Year 12 will be required to wear a face mask on public transport and in all indoor settings e.g. classrooms. Staff are not required to wear a face mask where it may affect the ability of students to hear or engage with them. Early childhood staff are exempt from wearing face masks when working directly with children.

What requirements exist regarding the use of QR codes at school?

Staff and adult visitors are required to check in using the QR codes.

Will the uniform shop be open during remote learning?

No. Any uniform items ordered online will not be available for collection until remote learning ends.

What is the school's approach to hygiene and cleaning?

The school has arranged for additional cleaning of surfaces during the school day. Teachers will encourage the use of hand sanitiser.

What school activities will run during the period of remote learning?

The AIS has advised that *all non-core curriculum related activities are to cease*. Therefore, no excursions or extra-curricular activities will take place until further notice. PIPE, the Junior School music performance evening, is scheduled to take place in Week 5 of Term 3. While the school would dearly love to run PIPE as normal with an audience, this currently seems unlikely. The school will be in touch with you about what will happen with PIPE and other extra-curricular activities as soon as we know.

Who do I contact if I have a concern or question?

Nature of inquiry	Person to contact
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Learning in a particular subject	Class teacher
Welfare needs	Junior School class teacher Secondary pastoral care teacher or Secondary Year Coordinator
Overall coordination of remote learning	Junior School - Mr Carter Secondary School - Mrs Bluhdorn
Transport and logistics	Junior School - Mr Carter Secondary School - Mr Richardson

Because most staff will be working from home, please send a brief email to the most appropriate person in the table above. Teachers will do their best to respond to parents quickly, although the demands of remote learning may mean that teachers could take longer than they normally would to reply to parents. To reduce the risk of phishing, emails have not been provided on this document. To email a teacher through SEQTA, go to the section called "timetable" then tap the relevant class (eg. 9 Science), then tap the envelope icon. If parents are unable to email a teacher they can phone reception.

Are you intending to send your child to school next week?

To comply with COVID regulations, the school will only have a limited number of teachers on site to supervise students. So that the school knows how many teachers are needed on site during remote learning, would you please complete a [survey](#) if you intend to send your child to school?

The school will continue to communicate with parents by email and via the [COVID-19 school webpage](#).

While our preference is to get back to face-to-face teaching and learning as soon as possible, I'm confident that the dedication of our staff, and the partnership that we have with parents, will ensure that our students continue to thrive throughout this period.

As a strong Christian community, we will get through this together. Our teachers have spent this week preparing in their teams and look forward to seeing students online on Monday for the commencement of a different, but exciting, Term 3.

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.
Joshua 1:9*

Kind regards,



Shire
Christian
School

a firm foundation

Mr Brett Hartley
Principal