



Dear Parents,

Our leadership team has carefully consulted staff and a substantial number of parents, representing a range of year groups, to determine the best way forward for our school as we transition back to face-to-face learning from Week 3 this term. I appreciate that some parents would have preferred to have received this information earlier; however, I wanted to hear the views of others to try and ensure that we have a smooth and effective return to regular classroom learning.

During our conversations I became convinced that the transition should occur over a 2 week period to prevent the process becoming too drawn out. This gradual return to classroom learning will help ensure our school is safe and that students have a quality learning experience. While every transition model we explored has potential disadvantages, I am confident that the following approach is equitable and the best way forward for all members of our school community.

For Kindergarten to Year 6 we have structured the gradual return to regular face to face learning during Weeks 3 and 4 based on surnames so that all K-6 students from the same family can come to school on the same day. After careful consideration, this approach will not work for Shire Prep or Years 7-12. I have outlined the 2 week transition under separate headings below.

Shire Prep

Shire Prep will return to regular classroom learning from the beginning of Week 3 - Monday 11/5.

Kindergarten to Year 6

Week 3

Monday 11/5

- Surnames A to L come to school for classroom learning.
- Surnames M to Z continue with remote learning at home.

Tuesday 12/5

- Surnames A to L continue with remote learning at home.
- Surnames M to Z come to school for classroom learning.

Wednesday 13/5 to Friday 15/5

- All students will continue with remote learning at home. Students who come to school on these days will be supervised while they complete this work.

While the school would prefer that K-6 parents only send their children to school on their designated days, parents who have a need to send their children to school can do so on any day of the week. A need to send children to school would be



where families are unable to manage remote learning at home. There is information below for parents who choose to keep their children at home full time from Week 3 onwards.

Week 4

Monday 18/5

- All students will continue with remote learning at home. Students who come to school on these days will be supervised while they complete this work.

Tuesday 19/5 and Wednesday 20/5

- Surnames A to L come to school for classroom learning.
- Surnames M to Z continue with remote learning at home.

Thursday 21/5 and Friday 22/5

- Surnames A to L continue with remote learning at home.
- Surnames M to Z come to school for classroom learning.

Week 5

- All Junior School (Prep to 6) students will be back at school for regular face-to-face classroom learning.

Years 7 to 12

Week 3 – Monday 11/5 to Friday 15/5

- Years 11 and 12 return to school for regular classroom learning.
- Years 7 to 10 continue with remote learning.

The school is happy for parents to decide whether to send their Year 7 to 10 children to school during Week 3. Those who come will go to their regular classroom each period and participate in remote learning just as they would if they were at home. The regular class teacher for that subject will be in the room conducting the remote learning lesson.

Week 4 - Monday 18/5 to Friday 22/5

- Along with Years 11 and 12, Years 9 and 10 will return to school for classroom learning.
- Years 7 and 8 continue with remote learning.

The school is happy for parents to decide whether to send their Year 7 and 8 children to school during Week 4. Those who come will go to their regular classroom each period and participate in remote learning just as they would if they were at home. The regular class teacher for that subject will be in the room conducting the remote learning lesson.

Week 5 - the week beginning Monday 25/5

- All students from Year 7 to Year 12 will be at school for regular classroom learning.



Students self-isolating after their peers have returned to school

The school acknowledges and respects that some parents may choose to continue isolating their son or daughter after their peers have returned to school. Therefore, some work will be left on the Junior School Hub for students to complete until the end of Term 2. In a similar way, Secondary School teachers will leave some learning tasks on Google Classroom for self-isolating students to complete. This work will be available until the end of Term 2.

Physical distancing and hygiene

The school will seek to provide as much physical distancing as we reasonably can in the classroom, without unduly impacting on the quality of teaching and learning. Based on recent government advice in this regard we will not be adopting the wider guidance for cafes and restaurants of four square metres per person.

The school will continue to adopt the hygiene practices introduced last term, including increased routine cleaning of handles and surfaces. A large amount of hand sanitiser has been purchased which will be made available for people on the school site where soap, water and a hand towel or hand dryer are not readily available.

Students, staff and parents must not come onto the school site if they:

- exhibit any symptoms consistent with COVID19 e.g. a cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat or other respiratory symptoms
- have travelled overseas within the last 14 days
- have had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19
- have a confirmed case of COVID-19
- are awaiting the results of a test for COVID-19

Students who come to school and exhibit the above-mentioned symptoms will be sensitively asked to go home.

Based on Federal Department of Health guidelines the school will not be conducting wide scale temperature checking of students because there is limited evidence to demonstrate the value of such checks. However, we have purchased some no touch thermometers and will use them for spot checks.

Parents onsite

Parents and caregivers should only come onto the school site if they have a specific need to do so and only stay as long as necessary. They are asked to practice social distancing principles as they would if they were going to a supermarket and not go beyond the breezeway without checking in at the office first. It would also be appreciated if parents could contact teachers by email or phone rather than dropping into classrooms. I hope that we can relax these restrictions in the not too distant future because the school values connections with our parents.



School uniform

Students are asked to wear the winter uniform, although teachers will be flexible for a few weeks if a student has not been able to acquire a particular item of clothing (alternative items should be consistent with the uniform). The uniform shop has requested that orders be made online prior to collection. More information can be found on the [website](#). Parents are welcome to phone Danielle in the uniform shop during open hours to arrange to buy uniforms (9532 1065).

The uniform shop is currently open:

- Monday 8am to 11:30am
- Thursday 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Water

The school has followed recommendations to turn off all bubblers. Therefore students will need to bring water bottles to school and fill them up at the water bottle refill stations.

Transport

We have been advised by Transdev that school buses will operate to their normal timetables. I anticipate that there will be an increase in the number of parents who will be dropping their children to school. Therefore, it is particularly important during morning drop off that students get out of the car and parents drive off as quickly and safely as possible. Some key tips:

- I would appreciate parents only getting out of their car if that is quicker and safer than your children getting out of the car without your assistance. Hugs and kisses at home before you leave rather than in the bus bay turning circle.
- If you are running late and need to write a note in your child's diary, please ask your son or daughter to write the note before you arrive at school and then all you will need to do is sign the diary when you arrive.
- Drive over the top of the yellow hatch markings and don't allow any gaps in front of you in the drop off zone area.
- If the car in front of you is about to pull out, please don't let your children out of the car. Allow the car in front of you to drive off, move forward and then let your children out of the car.

Assessment

In my email to parents on [9/4/20](#) I wrote about changed arrangements for assessment tasks that were necessary following the move to remote learning. Mr Stonestreet has written more detailed emails to [Year 11](#) and [Year 12](#) parents regarding the assessment program for these students.

Sport, excursions, peripatetic lessons, assemblies

Most venues remain closed; however, the school is working on arrangements to provide opportunities for sport in coming weeks. Separate emails will be sent during the term regarding the possible resumption of peripatetic music, speech and drama lessons. School excursions and extra curricular activities will resume



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a firm foundation

after the government advises schools that it is safe and appropriate to offer these opportunities.

Finally, thank you so much for your support in recent weeks. It has been a demanding time for many families. While all of us hope and pray that the world will be able to overcome COVID19 and that our individual liberties and freedoms will be restored, we need to acknowledge that the situation is fluid and could change for better or worse. We will endeavour to keep you well informed of any changes that may occur and look forward to continuing to provide a quality Christian education for all students at Shire Christian School.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with all members of our school community.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Kind regards,

Mr Brett Hartley
Principal