



ETTALONG
PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOMENOTE

KARINGI ST ETTALONG BEACH NSW 2257

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Term 2 Week 1

28 April 2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 29 April	Learning from Home continues for Term Two
Mon 11 May	Sturt House students return on Mondays only.
Tues 12 May	Phillip House students return Tuesdays only
Wed 13 May	Finders House students return Wednesdays only
Thurs 14 May	Blaxland House students return Thursdays only

Last week our Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced plans for students to return to school in Term Two. We are in a strong position to follow Dep't of Education guidelines and recommendations because at the end of last term, we prepared well. By the last day of Term One we had Learning from Home packs organised for the whole of Term Two, in case schools were closed due to the COVID19 pandemic. Who was to know how well our nation was going to respond to the strict social distancing and closures imposed on us? We are now in a position to be cautiously optimistic for Term Two.

As directed by the Premier, schools will continue providing lessons for '**Learning at Home**' for the first two weeks of this term. These work packs are available on our website or in hard copy from school, the same as last term. We have also added numerous lessons and activities to our Google classrooms, for your convenience. These lessons will continue until students return to school five days per week. At this stage, it will be closer to the end of term when all children return to school every day but we all have our fingers crossed that our lives return to some sort of normality sooner rather than later. Here at EPS, we are very aware that many of you have been adversely affected and we fully understand you wanting to be kept up to date. We will do our best to do this but if you have any questions that we have not covered, please call the office and we will endeavour to assist.

Starting in Week 3 of this term, schools have been given the choice in how to return students to school, one day per week. We believe using sporting houses i.e. alphabetical order will benefit the majority of our families. If you have children who are in different sporting houses and wish for them all to attend on the same day, please phone the office and we will accommodate you. This adheres to the direction of approximately twenty five percent of students only, each day. Please send your child on their designated day only. No one wants to return to square one of isolation because recommendations are not followed by all. Support class families will be contacted by Support staff. Schools remain open each day for students of emergency workers only.

Mondays starting from May 11 – Sturt House. Tuesdays starting from May 12 – Phillip House. Wednesdays starting from May 13 – Flinders House. Thursdays starting from May 14 – Blaxland House. Schools have been allocated one day per week for planning and professional learning days and at Ettalong PS this will be Fridays.

Work Packs for the first five weeks of this term are available for collection from Wednesday morning April 29. Students will need to bring their Learning from Home Work Pack on their designated school day and they will take them home again at the end of their day, to be used on their Learning from Home days.

Year 6 Work Packs will be available from Year Six classrooms because the Year Six t-shirts are now available for collection, also.

Years 3 – 5 and Support classes Work Packs are available from the hall, as per Term One, appropriately distanced.

K-2 Work Packs will be available for collection under the new K-2 covered area.

Our **playground** will again be divided into four sections to accommodate the twenty five percent of our students. Children will eat recess and lunch with sensible distances between them then they will be allowed to play games that do not require physical touch, in allocated, supervised areas of the playground. Play equipment is to remain closed in accordance with Health Dep't rules for all play equipment. Our **canteen** will also reopen gradually, with reduced hours to be decided by our P&C.

Children arriving before 8.30am will be asked to sit under the big tree, as always, but sensibly distanced. At 8.55am, K-2 children will meet in grades, under their new covered area and Years 3-6 students will meet under the COLA, in four separate sections.

The DoE suggests we utilise **Kiss and Drop zones** when dropping off and collecting children. We ask parents of K-2 children to use the designated Kiss and Drop zone in Uligandi Street. We will open the basketball court gate for parents to drive through the laneway **from Uligandi Street** to Karingi Street – in one direction to keep our children safe, to drop children in Years 3-6. We understand not all children are driven to school so we will also encourage use of the Karingi St pedestrian gate and the Karingi St bus gate. With such a large playground and two street frontages, there is no reason why social distancing for parents cannot be managed.

YMCA will continue their excellent service of **Before and After School Care**. Pop in to see them if you have any questions or changes to circumstances please.

Extra cleaning hours have been allocated to our school, and students and staff will continue to wash their hands regularly. As it has now been at least six weeks since increased hygiene measures were encouraged, it is expected that all students are now well versed in how to wash their hands properly. Whilst social distancing is only a requirement for adults in schools, the DoE has recommended we reduce the number of students in each classroom so we are planning on having approximately ten students per room. Since the beginning of this pandemic, students were asked to remain a sensible distance apart and this will not change.

I take it as a compliment that other schools on the Central Coast are copying our Work Packs and information. We have a hard working, dedicated team here comprised of yourselves, your children and Ettalong PS staff. We understand how difficult it has been and continues to be, not just in the area of education. Through regular, weekly contact with your children we are able to make sure all students are known, valued and cared for, the Department of Education's strategic direction.

Lynn Balfour

Principal