



ETTALONG
PUBLIC SCHOOL

HOMENOTE

KARINGI ST ETTALONG BEACH NSW 2257

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Term 2 Week 3

12 May 2020

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
Fri 15 May	Students of essential workers

Dear parents and carers

Hooray, we're finally on the road to recovery and on the way to full time schooling! Students can only attend one day per week at the moment but, judging by yesterday's enthusiasm, it will be a day to look forward to and hopefully, we will soon be able to increase this when the state government gives permission. If we all exercise caution and consideration for others, it won't be a case of one step forward and two steps back. It will be gradual but permanent, progress forward. Our school now has sufficient hand sanitiser, thanks to those very generous parents who have made donations and also the allocation of the DoE. I have also purchased sanitiser using school funds to ensure the children and staff do not need to worry about having clean hands. We also have soap in all toilets.

Sturt students came to school yesterday and enjoyed catching up with teachers and many of their friends. They were able to ask questions about the designated lessons in their work packs and receive tuition on new concepts, as they exercised enhanced hygiene requirements and appreciated the upgrades and maintenance completed whilst they've been learning from home.

All classrooms now have a brand new interactive smartboard, some rooms have new air conditioners, the quadrangle garden has additional shrubs and plants, and the new K-2 COLA is finally open for use.

I'm pleased to advise that our canteen has reopened for recess and lunch, four days per week, Mondays to Thursdays, inclusive. Please remind your child that lunch orders have to be placed before school, as always. Whilst social distancing is not mandatory for students in schools, we will be encouraging the children to queue sensibly and separately, although we don't envisage any long queues with only one quarter of the students attending each day.

Yesterday we opened the back gates on the basketball court for use as an unofficial Years 3 – 6 Kiss and Drop zone, entering the laneway from Uligandi Street then exiting to Karingi St. We again ask parents of K-2 children only, to use the designated Kiss and Drop zone in Uligandi Street to avoid congestion around our school gates as social distancing rules still apply to adults.

All excursions for Term Two are either cancelled or postponed. Scripture classes will not resume until Term Three.

We are awaiting instructions from the Dep't of Education on the expectations of Semester One Student Reports. We do not want any child to be disadvantaged and envisage the reports to look quite different to those previously issued. I will provide more information as I receive it.

Our Skoolbag app has recently undergone a revamp. The new app allows you to view the term calendar, contact us, change your contact information and explain absences simply from your phone. Instructions on how to install and operate the updated app can be found at <https://www.mogproducts.com.au/skoolbag/installation-instructions/>

Please note parents that have downloaded the app previous years will need to install the new Skoolbag app and then search for our school.

If you have a Facebook account, make sure you 'like' the official Ettalong Public School page. This page is updated constantly by our school executive with the latest news and information. Under the cover photo, select the 'Following' tab and tick 'see first' in your settings. Facebook's default settings mean you only see limited posts from our page. By selecting 'see first,' you will never miss important information that we post on Facebook.

Remember to ask your child to log into the Premier's Reading Challenge 2020 website to log all the books they have read this year. You can also add ten free choice books that are not on the PRC list. prc@det.nsw.edu.au. What was your favourite book?

Brisbane Water Secondary College Umina Campus has set a new closing date for their specialist program applications. Application forms for Year 7 2021 CAPA, Enrichment, AVID and Targeted Sports Programs must now be returned to Ms Harrison by Friday May 29. If you require a new form please ask for one when your child returns to our school this week.

A message from Kindergarten:

Kindergarten students have been very busy with their work packs either at home or at school. All of the teachers are so looking forward to seeing their beautiful students during this week; they have missed them very much.

We hope you had a lovely Mother's Day and that you enjoyed your day with your precious families.

Kindergarten learnt about shapes and revised the sounds u and z. Below are two students learning from home showing their wonderful work.

Lynn Balfour

Principal

