

# Strathfield South Public School

457 Liverpool Road Strathfield South NSW 2135

P 02 9642 1359

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strathfies.p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

## **Updates Learning from Home continues**

#### **MONDAY 30 AUGUST 2021**

Dear Families of SSPS,

Schools will return to face-to-face learning either through a 'staged return' or 'full return', depending on NSW Health conditions in their area. The following is a guideline of our timeline back to school. Please note that this is all dependent on our LGA being redefined in terms of the level we are currently operating under; Level 4 Plus. From 12:01 am Monday 23 August, additional restrictions including a permit system and curfew will apply to residents, businesses and those who work in the LGAs of concern. Refer to <a href="Travelling">Travelling</a> between LGAs for information.

## STAGED RETURN (LEVEL 3 PLUS)

When stay-at-home rules are still in place, but other community vaccination and transmission conditions are met, students will return to school in a staged way. This is a staggered return for **prioritised** cohorts, with no mingling or on-site activities.

Students will return to face-to-face learning with NSW Health-approved COVID-safe settings on school sites in the following order:

- from 25 October Kindergarten and Year 1
- from 1 November Years 2, 6
- from 8 November Years 3, 4, 5.

Conditions and guidelines will be in place to support a Covid safe staged return.

#### AREAS OF CONCERN

Local government areas (LGAs) and suburbs of concern operating under Level 4 plus restrictions will continue learning from home until they are removed from the areas of concern.

Depending on local conditions, our school will continue to operate under the following level of restrictions:

 <u>Level 4 plus</u>: Minimal students and maximum of 2 teaching staff on site; learning from home, parents must keep children at home unless they are defined as essential/authorized workers.

- While on school sites, masks or face coverings are required for all staff, and all students are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.
- Applies to schools in the following <u>local government areas (LGAs) of concern</u>: Bayside, Blacktown, Burwood, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool, Parramatta, select suburbs within the Penrith LGA, Strathfield.

In the event that a vaccination program is implemented for primary-school-aged children in NSW public schools, **informed consent will be sought from the child's parents or carers before any vaccine is administered.** 

Parents and carers may wish to discuss options for vaccination with their GP in the event their child becomes eligible for a vaccination in NSW.

Following updated health advice from the Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant about the growing risk to the community, <u>stay-at-home rules</u> will apply to all people who live in these areas.

All families are encouraged to monitor the <u>NSW Government's latest COVID-19 news and updates</u> for locations where there may have been exposure to COVID-19 and adhere to the advice as appropriate.

### At all times, please continue to:

- closely monitor for symptoms for COVID-19 and immediately get tested should you have the mildest of symptoms, regardless of where you live or attend school. If you get tested for COVID-19 because you have symptoms or if you have been directed by NSW Health to do so, you must isolate at home until receiving your test result
- refer to the <u>NSW Government list of case locations</u> and act on the guidance from NSW Health if you have been to any of these venues.

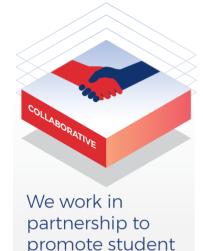
Our school is identified as being in the **Level 4 Plus category**, which means that parents must keep their children at home unless they are identified as essential workers. Only two teaching staff are able to be on-site and only as many additional staff as required to maintain and to meet the immediate needs of the school. Please continue to email the school rather than phone as there will be no one available to answer calls.

#### **Parent Webinar for SSPS families**

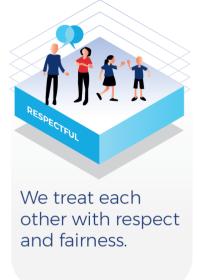
Practical Parenting in a Pandemic is a webinar for parents on Wednesday 1 September at 4:00-5:15pm. Flyer is attached, and this is the link for the Webinar. It is free as the school has paid for this event. PANDEMIC PARENTING

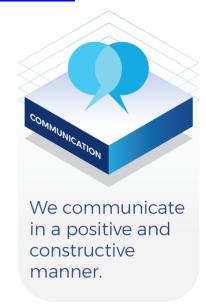
## **Working in Partnership**

## **School Community Charter**



learning.





I would like to acknowledge and thank both staff and parents as we continue to work together to support and guide our children/students through this unprecedented period. Thank you for the overwhelming support from parents and feedback that we listen to and appreciate.

These are not normal circumstances we find ourselves in, we are all learning as we go in this new situation of learning from home. We will make mistakes as we move forward and trial different ways to connect, teach and communicate and we will learn from mistakes, as this is an important part of growth. This is the one significant element we strongly impart to all our children every day. Please be considerate with your expectations, as SSPS staff are not only managing the usual complexities that teaching brings but are also managing the stresses and impact that this pandemic is having on our personal lives.

My priority has been and will continue to be, the wellbeing of students, staff and the whole school community, as we forge our way through this time of struggle and uncertainty. Now with a return-to-school plan, we are moving forward with a light to guide us back to face-to-face teaching. Until then, have compassion, flexibility and respect for each other and please be mindful of this when communicating with staff members and ensure you are engaging with respect and in a positive and constructive manner.

## **String Ensembles**

I am proud and excited to announce that our string program is back on track with Zoom meetings beginning this week. If you are part of the ensemble or if you took part in the Term 2 workshop, see the attached link for more information. Strings Flyer

## **Kindergarten Enrolment 2022**

Kindergarten interviews for 2022 are now taking place each morning via Zoom. If you are aware or know someone who has a school aged child ready to start school next year, please encourage them to check out the Sway below and join our Information night on Thursday 2 September @ 7pm.

Welcome to Strathfield South Public School



Use this link for the Zoom meeting.

Thank you again for your support and please stay safe and well.

Mrs. Belinda Hamilton
Principal/R
Strathfield South Public School



NSW Primary Principals' Association presents

Practical Parenting in a

Pandemic



#### Wednesday 1st September 4.00-5.15pm

"Regardless of how long it will take, this pandemic will end. Everyone is being impacted, inconvenienced, challenged, has lost something of value and had their lives shaken to the core." (Maggie Dent)

#### Content

In this webinar Maggie explores the layers of stress, anxiety and grief for families that have been created by the pandemic. She then dives into the issue of students learning from home. Maggie will explore the reality of parents working from home with kids or teens underfoot, with some doing digital learning while in social isolation.

#### Resources

This webinar includes free resources, a comprehensive handout and will be available as a recording for a month after the event for schools to access.

Practical Guide to Parenting in a Pandemic - use this link for the Zoom meeting.

For further information contact



