MUDGEE PUBLIC SCHOOL



44 PERRY STREET MUDGEE NSW 2850 Phone: (02) 6372 2036 Email: <u>mudgee-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au</u> Website: <u>https://mudgee-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/</u>

18 October 2021

MPS Term 4 - School Resumes Tuesday 5 October

Dear Parents, Carers and Community,

Welcome back. I hope you were able to enjoy the holiday break and take some time out for yourself and your family to refresh. I can't thank you all enough for the wonderful job you have done supporting your child during our learning from home period last term!!

What wonderful news to hear yesterday that the Mid-Western LGA comes out of stay-at-home orders, and with that, means our students are expected back for **face-to-face learning on day 1 of Term 4**, **Tuesday 5th October**. This means we are operating under the Department of Education's Level 3 guidelines. Under Level 3, all students are expected - and will be supported - to return to school for face-to-face learning. I encourage you to get in touch with us directly if this poses an issue for your children / family.

Level 3 is very similar to what we as a school community worked through previously before lockdown (with a few changes). I have included a few reminders/extra pieces of information for you to familiarise yourself with:

• Masks or face coverings are recommended for primary students in indoor and outdoor settings on school grounds. Please note they are not mandatory – it is recommended.

• It is mandatory for staff to wear masks in all settings unless they are working in an office on their own; are eating or drinking; they have an existing medical condition; or wearing of the mask alters clear communication or visibility of the person's mouth where it is essential.

• We will reduce overall mingling of our different student year groups/stages, which means no school assemblies or sport (outside of existing PD/H/PE classes), excursions or field trips.

• Only essential visitors will be allowed on site and will be required to check in and wear masks at all times. This unfortunately means we can't have mentors, reading group helpers etc on site, but we will look to incorporate where we can via digital platforms.

 \cdot $\,$ Allied health workers e.g. Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists are able to be back on site.

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 \cdot $\,$ There will be enhanced daily cleaning of the school and wherever possible we will ensure classrooms will be well-ventilated with open windows.

• Late arrivals/early departure: Please do not enter the school grounds with your child if you are late or need to pick them up early. Please call the school office and a staff member will meet you at the gate to escort your child to or from class.

Canteen: Our canteen is open from Tuesday, however, for Week 1, we will be operating on an order only basis. The canteen section on QuickCliq is being updated and should be available from Monday for ordering for Tuesday onwards.

Pick Up and Drop Off: We are doing everything possible to not go to a staggered pick up time which obviously means a lot of disruption and lost learning time. To support this there are a number of things we ask of you so please read carefully.

- Unfortunately, parents are unable to enter the school ground for pick up or drop off.
- Please don't stop or park in the bus bay in the morning or afternoon.

- Where possible, we encourage parents to walk their child/ren to school if possible, or park away from the school and walk to stop congestion outside the school gate.

- Please take care driving in the school zone as more children may be walking or cycling to school
- Obey the road rules and parking signs as they are still in operation.

Drop Off In the Morning

- In the morning, we will have staff at the gate to assist any little ones who may not have the confidence to walk into school on their own.

Pick Up In the Afternoon

- Please do not congregate outside the school gates. Arrive as close to 3:15pm as possible, and please ensure you are social distancing. Wearing of masks outside the school gates is not mandatory, but is encouraged.

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- Find a safe place away from the gate to wait and meet your child in the afternoon. If your children are old enough and you feel comfortable in doing so, set a pre-determined location to meet your child at your car.

Uniform Shop: The uniform shop is available to take orders online, but will only be operating in a 'Click and Collect' style capacity. We are working on when the first delivery of uniforms will be and will keep you updated as to when that is. In the meantime, feel free to jump onto Quickcliq.com.au and place your order. It is likely we will deliver any uniform orders to your child's classroom.

Day 1 Tuesday: As we will not be having assemblies, on Tuesday morning when the bell rings, students will head straight to their normal lining up area. Staff will support students to do this, but including this information may help you prepare your child for what their first day of school may look like.

The Department of Education has worked closely with NSW Health in developing our return to school roadmap and COVID-safe school plan. NSW Health will continue to monitor vaccination rates and transmission levels in our LGA and will advise us if settings need re-evaluation. With this in mind, we need to be mindful that things can change quickly.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we can't wait to see all the kids back on Tuesday!!! Our focus will be on ensuring your children are well supported as they return to school and reconnect with their classmates and teachers.

Have a great weekend. Stay safe, healthy and happy.

John Carters