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Newsletter - Term 2 Week 1 - 2022

Welcome to Term 2

Welcome back to Term 2 of 2022. This is the second half of Semester 1 and officially our autumn term. The good weather during the holiday period while not completely consistent was very welcome and I know that many of you will have gotten away for some time. We're going to be hitting the term running with events. Our Anzac Day celebration was today and it was wonderful to listen to Ken English who was one of our former families at the school. He provided us with an amazing talk about his distinguished career in the armed forces as well as some insights into the meaning of Anzac Day. A big thanks to Mrs Wittey who so brilliantly organised this ceremony as well as working with four of our leaders at the RSL Club ceremony on Monday.

On Friday we are holding our annual cross country carnival. This is the first of two carnivals to be held this term with the second, our athletics carnival to be held in the second half. Mr Jennings has been hard at work organising the carnival at Miranda Park and there is a short article in this newsletter with some important reminders about the day.

This newsletter also contains some important communication around COVID-19 mitigation. While immunity grows and the virus has arguably become less virulent, it is nevertheless still widely circulating and we all have to be careful. There is an article that repeats some of the important communication sent out last week that goes through the measure we have in place. For you, our families, the important thing is not to send your children if they are COVID-19 positive, or if they are negative but show any symptoms of COVID-19 including runny noses, persistent coughs and other symptoms. We know this is difficult and understand that there may be children who are prone to symptom like conditions. A simple check after a negative test with a GP who will provide a certificate to support a return to school is all that is required.

This term, the staff have begun some new initiatives around mitigating bias and formative assessment. This will begin this term with a focus on using strategies in the classroom to more effectively elicit evidence from students. We'll be school-wide introducing a no hands up approach in the classroom where participation from students will be drawn randomly in questioning. This will be backed with other expressions of learning and a big focus will be on developing trustful environments.

This term we will also be introducing getting our student lighthouse team moving as well as modifying our PB for L approach in playgrounds to focus on particular behaviours that have become problem behaviours. We'll be starting with the putting away of play equipment and getting to lines. This is all very exciting and we know that Mrs Buhagiar and Mr Jarman are eager to see the flow from this.

As the second term in Semester 1, there will be a school report provided at the end of the term. This report will go home on the last day of the school term and will report on learning throughout Semester 1. Of course at any time, please contact teachers by emailing the school office and they will contact you back to discuss the reasons for contact and if necessary plan to meet.

No Hands Up!

No hands up is a new initiative that we are trialling at Cronulla South Public School. As part of our assessment initiative, we are developing the way in which we elicit evidence of learning from our students. Last year we started by looking at setting the expectations for learning through the development of learning intentions and success criteria and now we are moving into the eliciting or implicit acquisition of where learning is at with students. Part of this is questioning and on Tuesday, teachers looked at the key points of questioning, including being strategic, planning questions, providing time to think and being receptive to responding differently as well as distributing questions and orchestrating conversation through a mix of

closed and open questions. They also look at different strategies and committed to starting to use No Hands up as a trial.

This approach needs some explaining as for some students and often for parents, it can be difficult. The intention is to end the time aged tradition of asking kids to put their hands up to ask a question and instead use a simple method of random selection to choose a student to answer a question. When used in tandem with the ideas of questioning discussed above, this creates an environment of greater trust and participation from all learners that reduces the bias in the room. Simultaneously, students become more engaged and teaching becomes more informed. This is definitely not about public humiliation as it is OK to be wrong and in discussions, all viewpoints can be evaluated. The evidence shows this is best for inclusiveness and unintentionally, the students who do get anxious are actually those who have traditionally answered questions more purposely before.

A very distinguished academic Professor Dylan William suggest this approach and the idea behind this is discussed as part of a TV show created called, 'The Classroom Experiment.' In the show, No Hands Up was part of a range of strategies that allow learning to be elicited more effectively. If you'd like to see it, you can watch the first episode here on YouTube for free. We're biased, but it's great watching and it's where we are heading.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/J25d9aC1GZA?showinfo=1&rel=0>

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/1iD6Zadhg4M?showinfo=1&rel=0>

NSW Teachers Federation Strike - Wednesday 4 May

As reported in the media, the NSW Teachers Federation has called for all staff to strike for 24 hours on Wednesday 4 May. At this stage, we are unable to provide you with the status of the school on this day but will endeavour to provide this as soon as possible. You will note that a decision to move the stage 2 excursion has been made so that children's participation is not affected by this. Please refer to the article later on about this.

COVID 19 Important Information

As we move into the new term, there are not many of us now who have not been at least touched by either ourselves or relatives/friends catching COVID-19. The stories paint a picture of a virus that affects different individuals in different ways and so we still need to be very careful. You will notice that staff are relaxing in the mask-wearing this term but will be still implementing and encouraging a number of measures to ensure that we reduce the impact of the virus. It is important to note the new ability for those who would previously have to isolate because they are a household contact for COVID-19 no longer need to isolate themselves and can come to school. The important thing for families to note is:

Staff and students cannot attend school if they are showing any symptoms of COVID-19. If a student is unwell and has any symptoms they should always test for COVID-19.

If the test comes back negative for COVID-19, the student should still not return to school until either:

- the student no longer has any symptoms
- a medical certificate is provided to the school confirming that symptoms are explained by another diagnosis (such as hay fever).

It is important that students do not attend school if they are unwell, even if they have tested negative for COVID-19.

Rapid antigen tests can produce false-negative results and symptoms of other illnesses can also be similar to COVID-19, including flu, the common cold and stomach bugs.

The health advice is that students who are sick should always stay home to rest and recover and avoid putting other students and staff at risk of getting sick.

Repeat of yesterday's message

Some of the layered COVID-smart measures you've come to know in recent months will continue this term. These 'baseline measures' are aligned to the NSW Government's general community settings and include:

- rapid antigen testing for symptomatic students and staff
- vaccinations – including booster shots (from 3 months after your child's primary COVID-19 dose) are encouraged for all eligible students and their families. Staff and volunteers on school grounds are to follow vaccination guidelines
- ventilation
- good hygiene practices
- enhanced cleaning

Continuing these baseline measures allow us to prioritise student and staff wellbeing while giving our learners a consistent and productive learning environment this term.

What's new in Term 2?

As we head into the cooler months, our COVID-smart measures have been updated in consultation with NSW Health, to provide additional protection to our school community.

Change to close contact isolation On 20 April the NSW Premier announced that from 6 pm 22 April 2022, close contacts (including household contacts) could leave home isolation with certain restrictions. The announcement means that from Week 1 of Term 2, students and staff who are identified as close contacts will be able to attend school with the following risk mitigations in place:

- You must notify the school if you/your child have been identified as close contact and are intending to return to school.

- You/your child should conduct a daily rapid antigen test (RAT) and receive a negative result each morning before attending school for 5 subsequent school days as part of your personal responsibility to minimise the risk of transmission.
- Staff members and high school students must wear a mask indoors at all times except when eating or exercising. Primary school students are recommended to wear a mask indoors at all times (except when eating or exercising).
- No student or staff member identified as a close contact will be permitted to participate in overnight excursions, including school camps.
- Students and staff in SSPs or support classes or utilise assisted transport who are identified as close contacts must not attend school during this time.
- Visitors in contact with students including volunteers, allied health partners and staff providing professional learning who are close contacts should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result before attending a school or ECE. They must also wear a mask indoors at all times (except when eating or exercising) if they are 12 years old or over. If attending a school site and interacting with students for an extended period of time, the visitor should advise the school that they are a close contact.
- In line with these changes, students with health conditions should speak with their treating medical practitioner or specialist to review their health support plan or COVID-19 action plan and speak with the school about any local considerations.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs). The department will continue to supply RAT kits to students and staff to support symptomatic testing and testing for close contacts returning to school (as mentioned above). Within the first three weeks of term we will provide 1 multipack of rapid antigen tests per student and staff. Once these department-supplied RATs are exhausted, please continue to access PCR tests and store-purchased RATs which are now readily available in the community or let the school know that you need more and we will try and assist.

Masks - The latest NSW Health advice recommends wearing a mask for people who have recovered from COVID-19 and recently completed their 7-day isolation period for an additional 3 days (from days 8 to 10 after receiving a positive COVID-19 result). Additionally, as outlined in the above section on close contacts, mask-wearing is mandatory for staff and high school students returning to school as close contacts for 5 days and recommended for primary school students returning to school as close contacts for 5 days.

Responding to our local context - We will continue to liaise with NSW Health and the department's Health and Safety case management team to ensure our COVID-smart settings keep up with the latest developments. If local conditions require it, this may mean temporarily reintroducing some additional COVID-smart settings including:

- mask wearing for all staff and students in Year 7 and above

- directing cohorts to learn from home for short periods of time
- postponing or limiting non-essential activities like excursions, indoor assemblies and visitors to the site.

We will make sure to update you at the earliest opportunity if any of these additional measures are required in Term 2.

The NSW Department of Education is reviewing environmental differences across NSW as part of their winter ventilation planning, ensuring that local climatic conditions at each school are considered. The department will provide local guidance to schools, including advice on maximising natural ventilation while balancing thermal comfort and the use of indoor and outdoor learning areas for school activities to support schools to adapt to local climate conditions through the winter months.

Reducing the risk of illness this winter. Finally, it's important to note NSW Health's advice to reduce our risk of not only COVID-19 but also other illnesses that may affect our school this winter like the flu. We can all protect our loved ones and our community by:

- taking a RAT before visiting vulnerable loved ones or going to large gatherings and
- staying home if unwell
- keeping up to date with our vaccinations – including the flu vaccine, which is available from your local GP, pharmacy or Aboriginal Medical Service. Flu vaccines are free for all children aged 6 months to under 5 years, or for a small charge for those aged 5 years and older
- get tested immediately for COVID-19 if you become symptomatic and isolating until you receive a negative result
- practising good hand hygiene by washing regularly with soap and water

Stage 2 Excursion - Postponed

Due to the announcement of the NSW Teachers' Federation strike next Wednesday 4th May, the Stage 2 excursion to the Nan Tien Temple has been postponed. Information will be communicated to Stage 2 families once a new date has been confirmed.

Y3 and Y5 NAPLAN - Week 3

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit in May each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students do. As students progress through their school years, it's important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy. NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards overtime.

NAPLAN - Starting 10th May

The first day of NAPLAN testing is Tuesday 10th May. Students in Year 3 and Year 5 will complete the writing assessment on this first day, with the other assessments (Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy) being completed during allocated timeslots across the rest of Week 3. Year 3 writing is done on paper by all students. All other assessments are online.

[Students will require headphones for NAPLAN.](#)

NAPLAN - Demonstration Site

If you feel your child needs further opportunity to experience the online platform, or they were absent for the practice test, visit the NAPLAN demonstration site. This site has public demonstration tests designed to help students become familiar with the types of questions and related functionalities available.

<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

K-6 Whole School Cross Country

The K-6 Whole School Cross Country will be held this Friday at Miranda Park. Students will travel with their classes by school bus to the park venue where they will participate in fun runs for our K-2 students and competitive (but still fun) runs for students in years 3 to 6 and those in Year 2 who turn 8 this year. We are expecting great weather on Friday though we also expect that with the rain of the past few days and weeks, there may be areas of the park that are still not completely dry.

Consequently, we would like you to send your children with a spare pair of shoes and socks in a bag so that they can change into these should their running shoes become uncomfortable after. Additionally, optionally, you may choose to include a spare uniform. All of this should be placed in a plastic bag that in turn can then hold the wet items after changing. We'd also like to remind you that sunscreen, a school hat as well as recess, lunch and most importantly water are critical for the day as well.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help out with the carnival. We still need more volunteers to marshall the course. Bring an easy chair and enjoy the good weather expected while you help guide and encourage students as they run around the course.

News Team

ANZAC Dawn Service

Light rain, sunrise, ocean waves, the ANZAC address delivered by Woollooware High School Captain, Sarah W. Her speech was very moving and spoke of the spirit of the ANZACs and the sadness of war.



The service had an early start, with the ANZAC march starting at 5:15 am. There were 2 Australian Opera Singers that came and sang the Australian National Anthem, and ANZAC Day song, 'Abide By Me'. Both the Australian Anthem and New Zealand Anthem were sung at the ceremony.

A large part of the ANZAC Day Service was the laying of wreaths and flowers under a white cross with the words 'LEST WE FORGET.' These wreaths are laid as a commemorative symbol to help us honour and remember those who have fought and died at War. We laid these wreaths to honour those who fought continually to secure our country's well-being.

Many attended this ANZAC day service, including over 15 public schools, over 10 high schools, and many surf clubs surrounding the area, including Cronulla RSL, and the Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC). This year, the ceremony was held at South Cronulla Park, due to Monro Park's grounds being too wet. This change of venue was quite useful, as this year many more people attended the ceremony, many also watching from the above.

After all, this year's ANZAC ceremony turned out to be exquisite, with the waves crashing into the shore, and the morning sunset coming over the grey, gloomy skies. This ceremony touched many hearts. The Cronulla South Public School student leaders who were able to attend enjoyed it too, as they participated in the ceremony, laying a wreath on behalf of the school and taking a moment to reflect on the importance of ANZAC Day.

Interview with Mr Ken English

On Wednesday the 27th of April, Mr Ken English came to Cronulla South Public School to address the students as part

of our Anzac Day service. Mr English served in the Royal Australian Navy. He is a fourth-generation serviceman. His children attended Cronulla South Public School and his two sons both served in the Australian Army. We thank Mr English for taking the time to talk to Charlee from our News Team.



Charlee: Welcome Mr English to Cronulla South Public School.

Mr English: My pleasure, it's a delight to be here.

Charlee: So, Mr English, why did you join us at school today?

Mr English: I was here to give an ANZAC address for the 2022 ANZAC Day ceremony for your school.

Charlee: There are many roles in the Navy, what role did you serve in the Navy and why did you choose that role?

Mr English: I joined the Navy because I was a 3rd generation sailor, my Grandfather was a Chief petty officer, my uncle was a petty officer and I ended up a leading seaman leading logistics, I've always wanted to be in the Navy and I loved every minute of it.

Charlee: What was it like being in the Royal Australian Navy?

Mr English: Very Exciting. Particularly when we went all around the far East, touring ports that were very exotic, wonderful places to visit and fantastic food to try and sample, the smells, the people, the culture, it was wonderful.

Charlee: My Dad joined the airforce when he was 17, what age did you join?

Mr English: I joined at 15 and a half, your father was 17, he was very young too.

Charlee: Did you get deployed in the Navy? If so, where did you get deployed to?

Mr English: Well, the Far East Strategic Reserve takes you all around the rim of the cities, so that's Thailand, Hongkong, Singapore, Malaysia, all those places, New Guinea, Solomon Islands. It was a peacekeeping operations. We also did a wonderful tour up around the whole of Australia in HMAS Queensborough, which was a frigate, and that was a wonderful outing, a wonderful exercise. I've been to Tasmania. One of the most exciting trips was going to Pearl Harbour to do RIMPAC for the United States Navy. I got to stay at Rivershore in Hawaii for two months looking after the aeroplanes coming in to fill our

supplies and mail, sending it out to the ships out at sea. A lot of fun.

Charlee: What posting has been your favourite?

Mr English: I started off in HMAS Leeuwin, which was a junior recruit training school, then I was in HMAS Sydney which was then known as the Vung Tau Ferry and it was going through a refill at the time, getting ready to take land craft mechanic to take the army troop to shore. From there I went to the Moresby which was a survey Navy ship and the Morbi to Paluma which I decommissioned. I was on the frigate, HMAS Queensborough and I had two tours on the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne.

The best one eh... gee, I think the Queensborough one was a very good one because we went right around Australia and we were the first warship to visit Vanuatu since World War Two so that was really exciting, and really well done on that trip, it was really good.

Charlee: Would you recommend people moving straight into the defence force from school?

Mr English: I think you should do your gap year, do a gap year, find out what you really want to do and then whilst you're doing your gap year make your decision. But I would recommend you do right through to year 12 in high school, get your high school certificate, very important. A good education in the Army services is vital.

Charlee: Thank you for joining us today Mr English, as well as allowing us to ask you these personal questions, it has given us a great insight into the Navy.

P&C News

Canteen

Thanks to everyone who has signed up to help out in the canteen this term. We still have lots of spots to fill so please have a look and sign up if you can.

[Cronulla South Canteen Roster \(signup.zone\)](#)

While we aim to have the canteen open every Tuesday and Thursday this is not always possible. Going forward we will be closing the canteen in advance if we don't have any volunteers as we do not have the resources to monitor the roster and send out continuous reminders and requests as we have been. If we have less than the full number of volunteers needed we will open the canteen but with a reduced menu, and again, this decision will be made in advance. If you have already ordered and the canteen is subsequently closed or the item is not available on the reduced menu you will need to go into Qkr and cancel your order. You will receive a credit to use the next time you place an order. We will ask the school to send out a message on the SZapp in these instances so please ensure that you read these messages.

If you are able to help out with coordinating the canteen on a Tuesday, rostering, sending updates or shopping for canteen supplies please send an email to cspscanteenroster@gmail.com. Any additional help that we can get would really be appreciated.

Mother's Day Fundraiser

Please refer to our Mother's Day fundraiser note. We encourage all families to purchase an item. Money raised will not only be an indulgent gift for mum but also help raise money towards furnishings for our new classroom upgrade.

Kind regards

Your P&C

Working for your school community

https://cronullasps.schoolzineplus.com/_file/media/3545/mother_s_day_2022.pdf