



Newsletter

Week 1 Term 4

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We hope you all had time over the last two weeks to relax with your children a little. It's been a difficult couple of years for everyone and whilst I am an optimist at heart, a little bit of me says the normal of school as we knew it is still some way away. I am happy to be proven wrong on this!

Thank-you!

Firstly, thank you all for keeping us informed of what's working, not working, and doing your best to support our children. It is all truly appreciated, and we know the challenges many families are going through and are doing what we can to reduce the pressure you might be feeling. I reiterate again:

Wellbeing (for all- you, your child, our staff) is the most important thing

There might be some gaps in your child's learning but they will be OK

Our staff will do their utmost to resolve any gaps in your children's learning because that's our job and we do it well

Secondly, thanks also for letting us know about the subject areas you are not concerned about your child being assessed on and that you are happy for your child to get a status grade for these. We have a spreadsheet and over the next couple of weeks we will finalise this ready for generating the report template. It is much harder to change afterwards. Therefore, if you haven't told us already, we ask if you can do that as a priority. Your child will still get a written report with grades shown unless you have asked for a status grade/s. The K-6 report will be marginally shorter and will have one comment section that covers all areas as opposed to the usual English, maths and general comment sections. This allows us to adapt our reports based on what the children have studied and produced over the remote learning period which may not be consistent across all subject areas.

Finally, thank you for your generosity. The snacks and goodies that have come in this week from children, parents and grandparents are thoroughly appreciated by staff!

The term ahead

I wish I had a crystal ball...!

This is how I think things will develop but communication, when it is known, will be provided to you formally and more specifically.

1. Most of the community things we enjoy: Fete, Christmas concert, Fun Day, Miles Franklin Day, Market Day etc. will not go ahead, or at least not in their usual way. It is highly unlikely there will be any excursions before the end of term.
2. We will try and continue with what we can, so hope to have a few fundraising non-uniform days for the charities we support, such as the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and the Canberra Basket Brigade. We hope to do concert online, providing we can comfortably do so within the current restrictions, and to combine Bookweek and Miles Franklin Day together online.
3. We are hopeful that we will be able to have Graduation and the Dinner Disco for the Year 6s due to them occurring later in the term and possibly outside.
4. Restrictions around the school grounds will return whereby parents will not be able to enter classrooms or hard surfaces near buildings, will need to be socially distant from each other, and move off school grounds once they have collected their children. If you can park elsewhere around the school to avoid the bottleneck of the carpark, that would be appreciated so we don't have lots of children from different year groups together, parents passing other parents in a small space etc.
5. MFOSHC and the canteen will continue and resume respectively. We ask that recess orders are placed, rather than cash sales, as those are the guidelines but we are also having building work commencing shortly near the doors into the courtyard and so counter sales will be virtually impossible. Lunches and recess will be delivered to the classroom.
6. Thursdays will be our specialist teacher day/catch-up day/wellbeing day (you choose!). Additional work will not be posted on those days, but teachers will continue with their meetings with children as we did in Week 10. This week's video recipe from me is butterscotch slice (donated from Jen, one of our parents!) if you want to spend the time doing some cooking with your children.

Classes for 2022

Whilst nothing is truly finalised until we begin the year as unexpected changes can happen, our class model for 2022 will be the same as in recent years and will be situated where they are currently.:

Preschool- 4 classes, Monday, Tuesday and alternate Wednesday; alternate Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Kindy to Year Six- 3 classes per year level

We announce the teachers for each year group in Week Eight. Please don't ask the teachers- they genuinely don't know and if they do know something we agree as a staff not to discuss it as changes can happen at the last minute! There is a process: we discuss the needs of the staff, the needs of the children in the school and mentoring and support for beginning teachers and create the best fit. These things are never perfect but we aim to get as close to it as possible.

As with previous years, we will not be seeking parental or student requests for friendship groups for our 2022 classes. This is due to the administrative burden placed on staff and the fact our year groups work and play so much with each other but please rest assured their current teacher and Executive will ensure there is a friend with your child in their class. However, if you have a specific request beyond this please email it to me at chris.jones@ed.act.edu.au only under the subject heading '2022 classes' as I receive many emails every day and will give your requests the utmost consideration and under a specific subject line I can 'sweep' to make sure I have them all. I apologise in advance but I need a process to be able to do this well so this is the only way your request can be given so it can be tracked- most years I'm asked why a request was not granted only to find out it was made to the class teacher or an Executive. If you do not have access to email please speak to Kirstie or Robyn in the front office and they will email me on your behalf. As in previous years, children going into Kindergarten, Preschool and those children who have an Individual Learning Plan will be notified of their teacher before the end of the year whilst all others will be able to find out their teacher from the front office when we return in the week before school during 'meet the teacher' on Friday 28th January from 8.30-10.30. Please let us know if you are unsure or already know that you will not be returning to Miles for 2022. If we don't hear from you, we will assume your child will be continuing up to the next year group with their classmates.

Chris