

Find us at 12 North Street, **Raleigh** 2454  
Email: [Raleigh-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Raleigh-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
School Principal: Mrs Katrina Meenahan

T 6655 4228 F 6655 4548  
Website: <https://Raleigh-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>

Term 2, Week 8

16<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members

Thank you to our parents for your ongoing support during these changing times. Both classes are settling well into classroom routines and it is becoming second nature to most, to wash or sanitise when we leave and enter rooms and when we do certain activities, such as before and after eating.

At school, our teachers are beginning to write your child's Semester 1 reports, which will be sent home before the end of term. These will follow a different format due to the effects of COVID-19 and remote learning and will mainly focus on Literacy and Numeracy. Early next term, we will be contacting parents for Parent-Teacher meetings. At the moment these will most likely be done via Zoom or over the phone.

We would also like to thank and remind everyone that students and staff with cold and flu like symptoms should remain at home until they are symptom free for 24 hours. Last week we had a number of students unwell and we appreciate parents' support in keeping their child/ren home. It is a very different situation than we would normally have, where in the past both students and staff would come to school with mild cold-like symptoms, we are now asking that students remain at home until they are better. If your child attends when they are displaying these symptoms, you will be contacted to pick them up and advised to seek medical advice.

I am currently absent, looking after my youngest daughter who had to be tested, as she was displaying cold-like symptoms. I phoned the Coronavirus Helpline (1800 020 080) and they assured me the advice has not changed from the government, anyone displaying symptoms should attend a clinic and be tested.

*"The man who has no imagination has no wings."*  
MUHAMMAD ALI

### *Changed Guidelines for Face-to-face Learning*

Last Thursday afternoon, the Department of Education released updated guidelines on our return to face-to-face learning. Some of these changes started yesterday, while others will change at the beginning of Term 3. I have attached this information to the newsletter and further information can be found at [www.education.nsw.gov.au](http://www.education.nsw.gov.au)

I have not attached the front and back pages of the Guide for Parents and Carers, as they did not contain the important information and were cover pages. This information was updated on the 11<sup>th</sup> June and will remain current until further notice.

### STEM

Last Friday, the students were asked to bring newspaper and cardboard to school for our STEM lesson. In pairs the students had to build a table that was at least 20cm high and could hold the most weight. They then tested the tables to see which ones could hold the most weight. Eliza and Remy's table could hold 9 dictionaries. Fantastic effort everyone!

This week for STEM we have everything at school that will be needed for the task.





## Origami

As both classes have been discussing the importance of brightly coloured flowers in attracting bees, the students all made some origami flowers. The older students had to model how to make the flowers to support the younger students. They made two different types of flowers and they looked great. There was a lot of patience and persistence shown when completing this task.



## Native Bee Garden

Over the past few weeks the students in 3-6 have been researching native plants that attract native bees. They have discovered many interesting and beautiful flowering plants that could be used in our new native garden. With the help of the staff, we came up with an extensive list of possibilities. We then approached Colin at Boggy Creek Native Nursery and he gave us a list that he had available. I have put in a large order which we will use to create a new garden and add to existing gardens.

This week, we will be receiving a large order of mulch and over 200 plants to create and add to the gardens. On Friday, weather permitting, the students from both classes will be involved in helping to plant some of these plants. A large proportion of the cost of the plants has been made possible with the 'EcoSchools' grant money we received for our native bees. As a part of this grant and our Woolworth's and Landcare grant we have committed to planting a variety of natives to support our two native bee hives.

Kind regards  
Katrina Meenahan

## Library

Library has recommenced on Tuesdays. Please remember to bring a library bag to protect your books.



## BELLINGEN FARMERS & PRODUCERS MARKET

**At Bellingen Park**  
(Church St next to Tennis Courts)  
Every Wednesday  
2:30-5:30pm

For more info contact  
bellingfarmers@gmail.com or 0402 564 206  
bellingfarmersandproducersmarket.com.au

<p><b>Easy parking</b> (incl mobility parking)</p> <p>Amazing and diverse range of fresh produce</p> <p>Nourishing meals and beverages to eat at the market or take home</p>	<p>Come and support our local farmers and food producers and do your fresh grocery shopping. All food grown and made within 200km from Bellingen.</p>
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Support our farmers and food producers now for our future food security

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AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES - HOMEWORK HELP - TEST PREP

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FIND or REQUEST A TEACHER NOW.

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- Medical & Law Uni students
- Online or local learning
- Instant response online



## Become a foster carer

Foster carers are needed in the Mid North Coast region more than ever before.

Whether you are giving a child a long-term home, or stepping in to help in a crisis, being a foster carer is a hugely, rewarding experience.

Talk to our friendly team today.  
Call Kimberly Pushong on, **0439 845 960** or email

[kimberly.pushong@challengecommunity.org.au](mailto:kimberly.pushong@challengecommunity.org.au)



**CHALLENGE**  
Community Services | Foster Care



## In line with health advice, schools are operating full time, and many additional activities are now able to recommence

All schools have returned to full-time on-campus learning. With updated health advice and changes to state and national restrictions, schools are able to recommence the majority of school-based activities from either 15 June 2020 or the start of Term 3 (20 July 2020). Some activities are continuing to be considered.

The following principles underpin these guidelines:

- schools continue to be safe and operations are in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPCC) and NSW Health guidelines
- existing infection control protocols at schools, and new health and safety measures put in place will help maintain the health and safety of students and staff
- all activities permitted at school are safe and appropriate in a living with COVID-19 environment.

School students do not need to follow strict adult physical distancing guidelines, but should follow good hygiene practices like:

- regularly washing hands
- avoiding sharing drinks or food
- coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately
- filling water bottles from bubblers rather than using the bubbler directly.

### School attendance

All students should be at school unless:

- they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition and the expected timeframe
- they are currently unwell.

### School activities/ school site usage

The majority of school-based activities can recommence, as long as the following measures are observed:

- all visitors and external to school providers must adhere to relevant hygiene, distancing and safety protocols
- principals may continue to restrict, limit or prohibit activities if they are seen as contrary to the current health advice
- external providers and visitors are required to demonstrate compliance with health and safety requirements including adhering to strict guidelines and completing relevant forms
- non-essential adults are still not permitted on school grounds or at school events – this includes **parents/carers** unless specifically approved by the principal.

### Physical distancing

Physical distancing of children in schools is not required under the Australian HPPC guidelines. Research has shown limited transmission risk associated with school children in the school environment.

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A guide to NSW school students returning to face-to-face learning – Guidelines for parents and carers

All adults must maintain physical distance from each other (1.5m) including teachers and support staff, and parents. Schools should ensure school pick up and drop off arrangements enable parents to physically distance from one another and from staff.

### School cleaning and hygiene supplies

Your school will continue to receive additional cleaning in line with the AHPCC guidelines and advice from NSW Health. Target areas include high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails in stairways and movement areas. There will also be additional cleaning of toilets and bubblers and topping up of supplies like soap.

Your school has received supplies of soap, hand sanitiser, toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes and personal protective equipment. The school is able to order more as needed.

### School activities return and timeline

Activities/site usage that can already take place:

- Use the school library
- Engage in non-contact sporting activities
- Canteens and uniform shops can open at principal's discretion
- Year 11 and 12 students only may attend classes/activities relating to subjects only available on other campuses if allowed

- VET work placement for Year 12 students is able to proceed from 15 June 2020. School based apprenticeships and traineeships can recommence once the relevant workplaces are back in operation
- Trade Training Centres can operate on school sites.

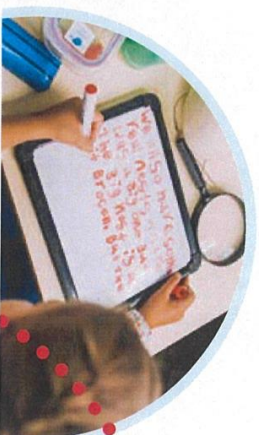
Activities/site usage that can take place from Monday 15 June 2020

- School assemblies (limited to 15 minutes and no external visitors)
- Choirs and performing arts at school, with safety protocols in place
- Students may attend other schools for essential curriculum related reasons or placements (eg. auditions or placement tests)
- Hydrotherapy pools can be used
- Incursions/external providers can provide activities that support delivery of curriculum (eg. music tutors, sport skills development programs, science demonstrations, drama tutors, Healthy Harold)
- Community use activities used by students such as dance classes, and student sport skills development, outside of school hours with limited adult attendance)
- Day field trips to outdoor locations with no physical distancing requirements can take place

- Face to face TAFE attendance (see TAFE website for further information)
- School photos
- Department of Community and Justice services and programs.

Activities/site usage that can take place from beginning of Term 3

- All school sport and activities including competitions aligned with current health advice (including those activities run by external organisations)



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- Inter-school student events and competitions (choirs, sport, debating, public speaking, performing arts, Selective Sports High School trials etc)
- SRE/SEE lessons
- Work experience for students
- VET work placements can proceed subject to the availability of placement and appropriate risk assessments. For any that can't proceed, please see [the NESA website](#)
- School based apprenticeships and traineeships can recommence once the relevant workplaces are back in operation
- P&C meetings – with a strong preference for on-line where possible
- Parent/teacher meetings – where these need to take place – strong preference for on-line where possible unless involving serious matters that require face to face discussion
- Community use activities involving general adult attendance (such as community markets).

### Activities under consideration from Term 3

The following events will be reconsidered in Term 3. For now these events must remain on hold!

- School camps
- Excursions (other than field trips explained above)
- Parent attendance at assemblies and other school events (eg. graduation ceremonies or student speech events)
- Parent volunteers – eg. parent reading helpers (note: canteen and uniform shop volunteers are permitted)
- Interstate excursions
- School based activities that involve large gathering of adults are not permitted at this time. These include parent/community gatherings such as parent functions, working bees, fundraisers, school BBQs, large parent information evenings, and large on-site cultural events. These large gatherings and the following activities will continue to be reviewed and assessed based on AHPPC and NSW Health advice and may be permitted at a later date.

### Activities that are cancelled, delayed or not permitted

Certain large arts and sports events are cancelled or delayed because they require feeder activities and have long-lead time organisational arrangements. Please speak to your schools if you would like to know more. International excursions are cancelled until further notice.



### Reporting and assessment

You will receive your child's semester 1 report before the end of August (Week 6, Term 3). This will be a simplified version of the report you normally receive. Schools are encouraged to discuss your child's progress with you before the written report is issued.



### Responding to COVID-19 cases

There is a clear plan in place for schools to respond to any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our schools. We are working closely with NSW Health and will communicate with parents if a situation arises. Find out more at the [Response Protocols page](#).



### Transport

For travel advice to and from school refer to the [NSW Public Transport Service](#).

