

Tottenham Central School



Principal: Amanda Thorpe

Week 4 Term 2
Thursday, 21 May 2020

Principal's message

Full-time return to school

Earlier this week, I sent information via email regarding full-time return to school. *The Guidelines for Parents* are also in this newsletter.

- It is essential that parents do not enter the school, or congregate near gates during the drop-off and pick-up of students. Parent access to the school is only via the front office.
- Please return all work packs - finished, not finished or partially finished to school ASAP. We will use these packs to determine where your child is up to and who needs additional support. Students will also use any spare time to finish off work in the packs they haven't done with the help of their teacher.
- Students will be assessed, work will be caught up and we will return to normal ASAP. We can't wait!

Semester 1 reporting and assessment

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Semester 2 assessment and reporting will look a little different. Your child has been assessed during the learning from home period and will receive additional assessment on their return to school.

We will adopt a revised approach to student assessment and reporting for Semester 1 2020, reflecting the current teaching and learning environment.

The key things to note about the revised approach are that it fulfils our requirement to provide information about student progress and achievement, but in a more flexible way.

- Schools are required to provide a simplified written report to parents/carers about students' learning in Semester 1.
- Reporting to parents/carers will focus on the learning that has taken place so far this year. This will encapsulate students' progress and achievement of the learning provided both at school and at home, as well as guidance going forward.
- The grading of students using the A-E scale is not required. Word descriptors will be used through teacher comments to provide a consistent language for reporting progress and achievement.
- You will receive your child's Semester 1 report before the end of August (week 6, term 3).

Phonics screening check trial

Our school has been selected to participate in the *Phonics Screening Check Trial* this year. We will be one of over 500 schools taking part in the trial in 2020.

The *Phonics Screening Check* is a short, simple assessment that tells teachers how students are progressing in phonics. The phonics check assesses how students blend sounds together to read a word. The check takes 5-7 minutes and is carried out by classroom teachers with each student individually. Teachers then analyse the results and, if necessary, plan for any additional support that students might require. The check complements existing strategies to identify students' progress in developing foundational literacy skills.

Temporary update to K-10 Curriculum requirements

NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority) have temporarily updated the NSW curriculum requirements for Kindergarten to Year 10 so that teachers have the flexibility to determine essential learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that teachers do not need to cover all outcomes in the K to 10 syllabuses this year. Instead, schools can consider the suitability of curriculum outcomes for learning at home and at school, students' learning, the health and wellbeing needs and the context of the school and students' access to resources.

Amanda Thorpe, Principal

School news

A guide to NSW school students returning to face-to-face learning

This guide is for parents and carers

Information has been updated as at 19 May 2020, until further notice.

Schools are safe and open for full time face-to-face learning

All schools are returning to full on-campus learning from Monday 25 May. All school activities and operations will be in line with Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and NSW Health guidelines as applicable.

School students do not need to follow 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.

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
- They are currently unwell.

Students who have a medical certificate to stay at home will be supported to learn from home in line with regular procedures if they are able to. These regular procedures are different to what was offered during the learning from home period. If you require work to be provided to your child whilst they are at home due to an underlying health condition, you should contact the school for assistance.

Please note, students who live with a family member in one of the categories identified as being at increased risk by the AHPPC, should attend school unless a medical practitioner advises otherwise in writing.

If your child is unwell, do not send them to school. If they are unwell at school you or your nominated emergency contact will need to collect them immediately. Please make sure your contact details are up to date.

If a student is absent without a medical reason for more than three days, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and followed up by the school.

If you need any support to get your child back to school, please contact your school.

Reporting and assessment

Your child has been assessed during the learning from home period and will receive additional assessment on their return to school.

You will receive your child's semester 1 report before the end of August (week 6, Term 3).

This may 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.

School activities

Teachers will continue to follow the same school curriculum with the exception of some activities that can't go ahead for now.

What children can do:

- Use the school library
- Engage in non-contact sporting activities
- Year 11 and 12 students may attend classes/activities relating to subjects available on other campuses
- VET work placement for Year 12 students is able to proceed from 1 June 2020. Year 10 and 11 work-placement is able to proceed from Term 3 2020.
- School based apprenticeships and traineeships can recommence once the relevant workplaces are back in operation
- Trade Training Centres can operate on school sites.

What students can't do:

- School assemblies (unless for critical information)
- School incursions and excursions including camps
- Work experience
- Inter-school activities (debating, inter-school sport)
- In-school activities requiring parent or other volunteers
- Use hydrotherapy pools
- Drink from a water bubbler – bring a water bottle instead
- Students cannot attend TAFE for study but may continue to learn online.

School cleaning and hygiene supplies

Your school will receive additional cleaning in line with the AHPPC guidelines and advice from NSW Health. Targeted 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.

| NSW Department of Education

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 grounds

There should be no visitors to school sites unless they are essential. Your school can provide guidance as to who is considered essential.

Your school will provide advice on drop off and pick up procedures.

Wherever possible, P&C and parent/carer/teacher meetings should be conducted virtually.

Canteens and uniform shops can open at the discretion of the principal.

Out of school hours care can continue to operate.

Community use of school facilities will recommence only for uses that are necessary for continuation of education and with principal's approval.

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 was to arise

2020 ICAS Participation

In 2020 students have the opportunity to participate in the following subjects:

2020

Each subject will be open for a 5-day sitting window period (see dates below)

Subject	Sitting Dates#	Closing Date^
ICAS Science	Monday 17 August to Friday 21 August 2020	Monday, 10 August 2020
ICAS Writing*	No longer available in 2020	
ICAS Digital Technologies	Monday 24 August to Friday 28 August 2020	Monday, 17 August 2020
ICAS English	Monday 24 August to Friday 28 August 2020	Monday, 17 August 2020
ICAS Mathematics	Monday 31 August to Friday 4 September 2020	Monday, 24 August 2020
ICAS Spelling Bee	Monday 31 August to Friday 4 September 2020	Monday, 24 August 2020

If you would like your child to participate in any of the subjects listed above, please visit the new online Parent Payment System to make a direct payment to UNSW Global. The Parent Payment System is a simple and secure online payment service specifically for parents to purchase ICAS Assessments.

Cost per test: \$15.95 including GST

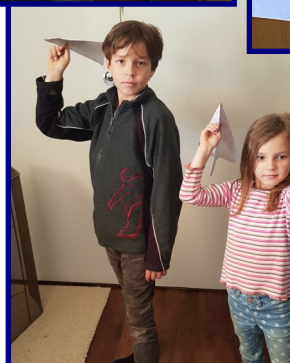
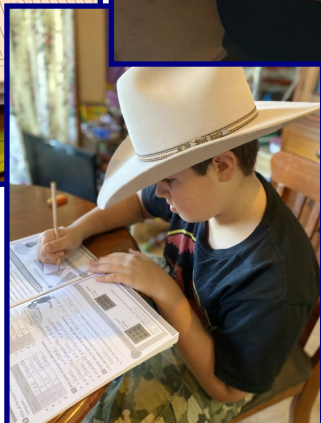
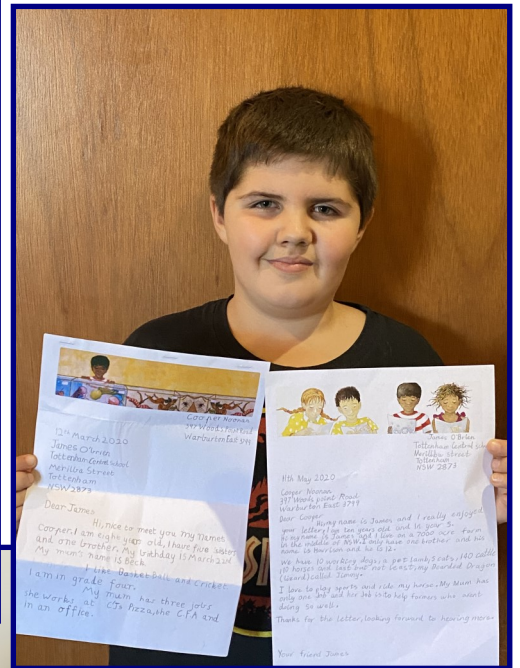
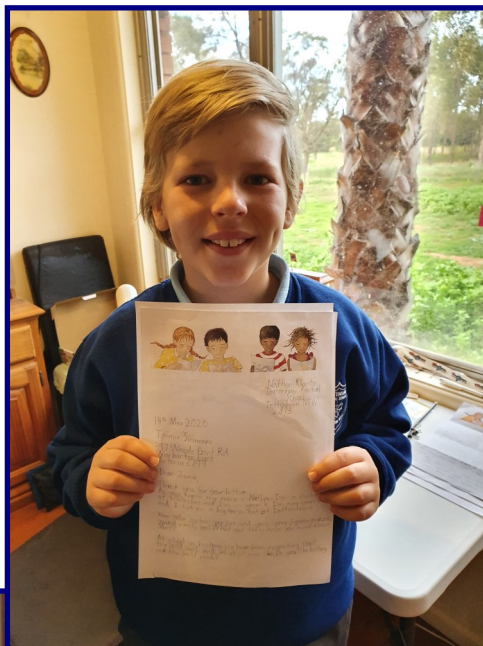
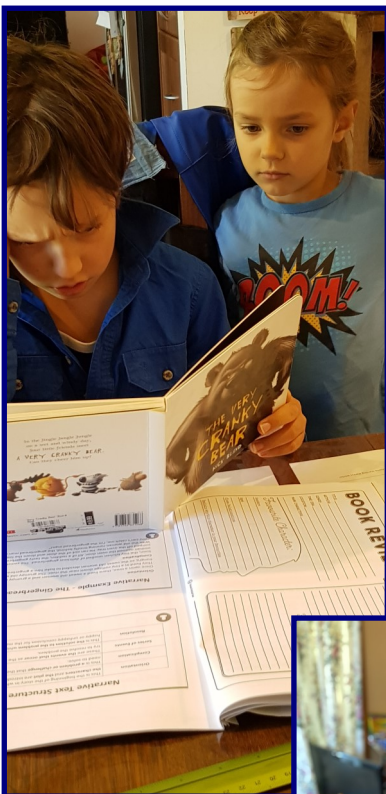
The web link is: <https://shop.unswglobal.com.au/pages/pps>

Our school's unique access code is: **EIE013**

Online payment closes Monday, **17 July 2020**. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any questions.



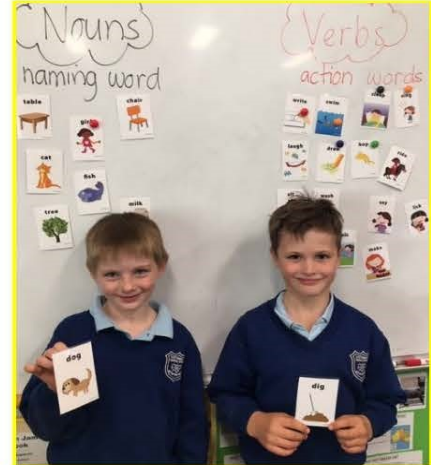
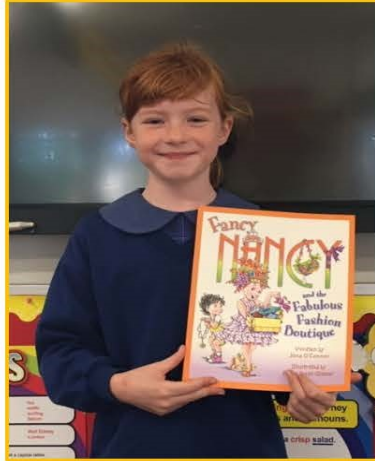
*From spelling in the dirt,
learning to drive the tractor,
to writing to their pen pals!
Well done everyone!*



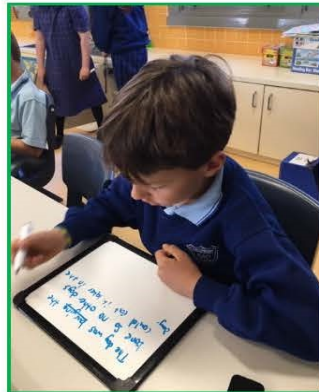
Primary news

News from 2/3/4

Students in 2/3/4 have been working hard over the past few weeks both at home and at school! We have continued our public speaking activities while the virus has kept us at home. Students have had to recite Anzac Day and Mother's Day poems. This term we are developing our narrative writing skills and so in class we are sharing about our favourite narrative stories.



In grammar lessons we have been learning about verbs, nouns and adjectives and in our narrative writing lessons we have been learning how to use them to enhance our writing. Here are some photos of Year 2 sorting words and pictures and Year 3 and 4 writing complex sentences to help make their writing more interesting.



In Maths, Year 3 have been learning about modelling objects and yesterday we had to discover which nets would make a cube. Year 4 have been learning about patterns and shapes. Yesterday they had to draw shapes, cut them out and then move them around.



Secondary news

Secondary Assessment Schedule

Week due	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6
Term 2 Week 5	N/A	N/A	Year 11 – N/A Year 12 – English Studies

Secondary work

Could secondary students please bring all learning from home packs and work back with them when they return to school on Monday.

Ag Plot news

The vegetables that the students planted in the compost-rich tubs before COVID-19 have flourished. The layer hens are all well and laying. The school gardens are benefiting from the succulent cuttings that Will has raised in the greenhouse. A variety of seedlings were purchased recently from Narromine Transplants, and Will and Chris have been busy planting out garlic and beetroot plots. When the students return to school full-time, we will be able to plant the grapevines and continue working on the sheep yards, concreting the posts and base for the weighing scales.



Last week the Stage 5 students completed soil tests for several plots around the ag plot that will be used to plant autumn vegetables, corn and grape vines in future months. They completed soil profiles and field tests to determine soil texture and pH levels. Nature is amazing - after the rain, we found some lovely surprises in the school garden in the forms of a leafy frangipani and self-sown tomato plants appearing.



EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

Calendar

WEEK 4	18 May	19	20	21	22
WEEK 5	25 Students return to school full-time	26	27 National Simultaneous Storytime	28	29
WEEK 6	1 June	2	3	4	5
WEEK 7	8 Queen's Birthday Public Holiday	9	10	11	12
WEEK 8	15	16	17	18	19

Did you know there's the equivalent of only one handprint of tread connecting each of your tyres to the road? That's just four areas of tread the size of your hand controlling thousands of kilograms of machinery travelling at speed in all kinds of conditions.



Contact us

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Assistant Principal Mrs Meggan Adam (rel.)

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Tottenham Central School



Your say

You are encouraged to use this space to give us any feedback on things which you feel you need to: congratulate a student, teacher or parent, let us know what you think of the newsletter format, make a suggestion or request.

Signed: _____



We would like to pay our respects and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and also pay respect to Elders both past and present.