




| <u>St Nicholas transition back to the “new normal”</u> | | | |
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| Current Phase | Phase 3 | 11th May 2020 at least 22nd May 2020 | |
| Expected next Phase | Phase 4 or 5 | 25th May 2020 |  |

15th May 2020

Dear St Nicholas Parents and Carers

re: COVID-19 Daily Communique

Term 2 promises to change by the day and we hopefully transition to the ‘new normal’. Our transition will be founded on our children feeling loved and connected to the St Nicholas School community where they continue lifelong learning.

Australia’s positive response to the COVID-19 pandemic has led to discussions on the possibility of loosening restrictions. While we hope and pray for the safe lifting of restrictions, my commitment has not changed in regards to providing parents with the most up to date information around direct implications to St Nicholas Primary School from COVID-19.

The daily communique will continue, delivered to parents through the School Newsletter portal and our Facebook platform. New material for each day is **highlighted in yellow**.

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| Advise on self-isolation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Nicholas is still following the advice of the NSW Premier that all school children, if they are able, should stay at home for weeks 1 and 2 of term 2. |
| Anxiety: Parent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the CSO counselling program, Centacare is offering services to parents struggling due to the current pandemic. I encourage any parent, who feels the need, to reach out for support. Please make direct contact with Lucy Rosser, Provisional Psychologist: Centacare New England North West <ul style="list-style-type: none"> l.rosser@centacarenw.com.au |
| Anxiety: Students displaying anxiety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to student counselling services (Centacare). Please contact Amanda O’Halloran (aohallo1@arm.catholic.edu.au) if you would like to access this service For anxious students and families, please access the following two links: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html https://www.psychology.org.au/getmedia/38073179-4701-48bd-afd9-988c560ee2f9/20APS-IS-COVID-19-P1.pdf |


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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Scripts and resources to help parents explain COVID-19 to inquisitive students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hwy8zucB4TTDRi2ZFjMp2XCZV-HU0SzS/view?usp=sharing ○ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fGgenKjZRBcOLo35v_K_3Apq5a2GxGUH/view?usp=sharing ● Helping children cope with Stress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://bit.ly/2JyCMhy ● Andrew Fuller: Talking to young people about the Coronavirus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://bit.ly/2yFXPwG <p>SchoolTV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ https://stnicholastamworth.catholic.schooltv.me/ ■ Through the school newsletter ■ We are in the process of adding it to the school website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● https://stnicholastamworth.catholic.edu.au/ ○ Significant support on COVID-19 can be found under the “Special Reports” tab. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Special Report just released (29th April 2020): “Wellbeing: Checklist for Primary” ● Please access the report through: https://stnicholastamworth.catholic.schooltv.me/ <p>Autism Spectrum Disorder: Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For support regarding children with Autism Spectrum Disorders please find excellent information at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://bit.ly/2R0nlmn ● We highly recommend the youtube clip about how to support fussy eaters who may be under stress due to a reduced amount of food choices available at supermarkets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Story for transition back to school and how it may look different of pre-Covid19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COVID-19: Return to school Social Story ● Centacare Parent Newsletter |
| Book Week | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Book Week has been rescheduled to Week 2 Term 4. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More information will be provided at a later date. |
| Buses: Tamworth Buslines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tamworth Buslines will be delivering bus services in accordance with Transport for NSW COVID-19 Precautions for Public Transport Services advice, issued on 7th May 2020. This advice has been developed with regard to Safe Work Australia’s guidance for Public Transport. Specifically in regard to school students and school services the following information is important; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social distancing does not apply to dedicated school services ○ No school student will be left at a bus stop <p>Further, Tamworth Buslines will be encouraging social distancing on buses where patronage levels permit. The seats immediately behind the driver and adjacent to the driver will be isolated to minimise contact between the driver and passengers.</p> <p>Additional cleaning has been introduced on buses since the outbreak of COVID-19. The additional measures include;</p> <p>Additional cleaning of all touch points including hand holds, stanchions, bell pushes and seat top rails prior to commencement of all shifts both in the morning and afternoon, with hospital grade disinfectant.</p> <p>Drivers will be carrying out additional cleaning during any layover.</p> <p>Tamworth Buslines will continue to monitor processes and practices as students return in increased numbers. All advice from TfNSW will be strictly adhered to.</p> |

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| | Please contact me on 67 623 999 if you require any further information. |
| Canteen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● From Monday 11th May the canteen will be open for online orders through Qkr. <u>There will be no cash sales.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The winter menu is now available on Qkr. ○ No parent helpers until further notice |
| Child Protection Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keeping the Safety Net Intact: Child Protection in a Remote Learning Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://bit.ly/3aUvfWF |
| COVID-19: Resources for children and parents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please find the link to a folder I have developed with some resources for parents: I hope it is of help: https://bit.ly/39tPdWK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The folder includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The story of the Oyster and the Butterfly is a children's book/video parents can access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBHba-EBoM8> ■ COVID-19 Support form Headspace Newcastle ■ COVID-19 Mindfulhearts Social Script ■ COVID-19 Social Script for Teens ■ Don't walk your cat, and other advice for a worried kid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uyDB5D3I4w> ■ Broken Hills School of the Air's top 10 homeschooling tips for parents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <https://bit.ly/3bRgP9J> ■ Catholic Schools NSW Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Everyday acts of kindness ● Everyday English ● Everyday Maths ● Everyday prayer ● Just one thing about my learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acces these here: https://bit.ly/39tPdWK |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Digital Lunch Break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYYP) has launched a new website called Digital Lunchbreak. This youth friendly platform has collated all the resources and activities that have recently emerged for children and young people in response to COVID-19. The Digital Lunchbreak website assists children and young people with finding online resources and activities to do at home in their lunch break, around learning hours and on weekends during the current social distancing measures. Activities include digital workshops, learning materials and virtual excursions: https://www.digitallunchbreak.nsw.gov.au/ |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Northern Region Mental Health Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parenting COVID eResource ○ May Newsletter |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Northern Region Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Happy sleep habits ○ Interview a friend ○ Start your day the mindful way ○ Ways to be resilient ○ Compliment cards |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children's story book on the 2020 school year being very different: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVUxnQ9LYU4&feature=youtu.be |
| ESL: English as a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently looking at options to support English as a Second Language |


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| Second Language | students throughout Term 2. |
| Footpath Pick-Ups/Crosses & Walkers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As we move into Phase 3 next week please ensure you are adhering to social distancing measures when collecting your children from Footpath Pick-Ups/Crosses & Walkers. Please follow the signage and directions from staff as some minor changes will be in place. |
| Home Readers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the support of the Armidale Catholic Schools Office, St Nicholas now has a subscription to an eCollection of PM Readers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levels 1-30 will be available to our students More information will follow, including how we can utilize every aspect of this fantastic platform. For students who are on a PM level, electronic version of PM readers will be accessible as part of next week's (Term 2 Week 3) L.I.F.T-Off learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For students on leveled readers, electronic PM's will continue as a component of L.I.F.T-Off learning until further notice. |
| Illness: Students displaying signs of illness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be sent home |
| <p>L.I.F.T.-OFF Learning: formerly "Home Learning Access"</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> L.I.F.T.-OFF Learning: St Nicholas learning platform during the COVID-19 pandemic has been referred to as "Home Learning Access". These quickly acquired words, unfortunately do not convey the full message of learning during this pandemic. From day 1 Term 2, St Nicholas Platform for learning during the COVID-19 pandemic will be referred to and re-branded as "L.I.F.T.-Off Learning" Rationale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> L.I.F.T: (Learning Is Forever Together) has been a consistent acronym and part of St Nicholas' visible learning culture for a significant period of time (WALT, WILL, WILT). While our work looks different, as a school, we are determined that Learning will continue We acknowledge that learning never stops. Learning for teachers & parents (as well as students) is constant and continues Forever. St Nicholas is determined that our students, families and staff feel connected (Together) with our school community whether they are working from home or school. "L.I.F.T.-OFF Learning" recognises that all of our school community are learning, no matter where they are physically situated. Release of L.I.F.T.-OFF Learning: St Nicholas has been incontact by some parents requesting L.I.F.T.-OFF Learning is either released the day before, or as a weekly block. St Nicholas is releasing L.I.F.T.-OFF Learning daily and at 7am because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSW government has advised schools to move to marking children as absent if they are not engaging in remote learning (L.I.F.T.-OFF Learning). Students logging in each day provides evidence to St Nicholas students are engaging each day. 7am has been chosen as the earliest reasonable time to support parents in preparing any material. |

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| Personal Plans (PP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents of students with 2020 Personal Plans - Catholic Schools New South Wales have informed Catholic schools that the communication tab in the 2020 personal planning portal is not currently functional. We will be sending home Semester 1 2020 personal plans for your feedback when this functionality has been resolved. Thank you for your continued support in this matter. ● In coming days, class teachers will be in contact, via phone, with parents of Personal Plan students to ensure you have input in regard to the creation of this semester's Personal Plan |
| Playground Equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Playground equipment is now open for the children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thank you to Colleen Harding who is cleaning and disinfecting the equipment after each break. |
| Safety online | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For some students, time at home may mean more time/experiences online. Parents are encouraged to familiarise themselves with suitable eSafety modules <https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators> so that students can be supported to have safe online experiences. ● https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents |
| School Fees (relief) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St Nicholas families will be supported. ● Accompanying today's communique (1.4.2020) is a letter from the director of the System of Schools for the Diocese of Armidale, Chris Smyth. I have included a link below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://bit.ly/2xJscSb ● Please reach out if you require our assistance. |
| School Uniform | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● From Monday 11th May (Week 3) all students are required to wear full winter uniform. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students will continue to wear their sports uniform two days a week according to the identified grade days. Sports Day Kinder: Wednesday & Friday (optional) Year 1: Wednesday & Friday (optional) Year 2: Tuesday & Friday (optional) Year 3: Thursday & Friday (optional) Year 4: Tuesday & Friday (optional) Year 5: Thursday & Friday (optional) Year 6: Wednesday & Friday (optional) ● Lowes, St Nicholas School ties are currently out of stock. They hope to have them in stock within the next two weeks. No St Nicholas student will be reprimanded for not wearing their school tie until Lowes are restocked. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Naturally if your child does have a school tie, we ask they continue to wear it. |
| Sherpa (after school care) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuing as normal |
| Social distancing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Considerable signage has been placed around the school to support our community with the transition back to school. Thank you for playing your part. |

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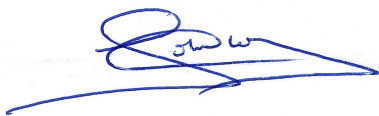
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| <p>Student and Parent Responsibilities</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accompanying today's communique (1.4.2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ L.I.F.T.-OFF Learning: Parent Responsibilities ○ L.I.F.T.-OFF Learning: Student Responsibilities ● The documents have been created to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ clarity and consistency to Home Learning Access ○ the online safety of our students |
| <p>Student Textbooks for self Isolating students</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As part of “L.I.F.T.-Off Learning” for Term 2, St Nicholas will be sending home student textbooks, from Monday 27th April, for those students who are self isolating. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students are only to use these books when instructed by their teacher through the Google Classroom “LIFT OFF Learning” platform. Please ensure these books are well looked after and only used as instructed. ○ Collection of these books will take place in the school auditorium in a similar manner as our earlier Chromebook collection. ○ Please take note of the following time schedules so that the collection procedure is managed in a swift and safe manner. ○ Social distancing and sanitising measures must be adhered to. ○ We request that only one parent/carer (and no children) attend either one of the two collection options outlined below. ● Tuesday 28th April 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 9:00-9:30am U-Z Surnames ○ 9:30-10:30am P-T Surnames ○ 11:00-11:30pm F-J Surnames ○ 11:30-12:30pm A-E Surnames ○ 1:30-2:30pm K-O Surnames |
| <p>Term 2: Advice</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSO Graphic |
| <p>Transition back to the “new normal”</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cornerstone: What will hold St Nicholas response to COVID-19 together? ● The Berejiklian government is working towards NSW children returning one day a week from Monday the 11th May. Planning has already commenced on how the government's announcement will be actioned at St Nicholas, including the full transition back to the “new normal”. ● St Nicholas plan involves phases of transition and I hope to be in a position to share this with the entire school community by Monday 4th May. ● Distributed to the ST Nicholas community on 4.5.2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ St Nicholas School Communication to parents re: managed return to school ○ Parent Copy: St Nicholas Transition back to the “new normal”- 6 Phases ● With our St Nicholas Transition back to the “new normal” now released, our parents are contacting admin staff and teachers with questions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Please find shared with you scripts for Frequently asked questions: “Transition back to the new normal” |
| <p>Week 4 Term 2</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Phase 3 will continue next week. For students this involves: |

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| 18 May- 22 May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monday: Mackillop: Red + Essential workers ○ Tuesday Ozanam: Green + Essential workers ○ Wednesday Dominic: Gold + Essential workers ○ Thursday Edmund Rice: Blue + Essential workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Current predictions would suggest a possible move to phase 4 or 5 at the start of week 5. |
| ZOOM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide to parents in hard copy at textbook collection this morning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ZOOM: Rationale and Protocols- Parent Copy 27.4.2020 ● Thank you to everyone who joined today's ZOOM meetings. Our teachers were quite emotional getting to see the children again. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Today we saw some cliques, which should be expected. ○ This week has been set aside to upskill our students on ZOOM and ensure cliques are ironed out before we use ZOOM as a learning portal for Literacy and Numeracy next week. ○ We look forward to ZOOMing with our students again tomorrow. ● The focus for this week was to reconnect with our students, teach our students about ZOOM and iron out any glitches. As the week has progressed St Nicholas has identified many technical and timetabling issues. We are now in a position to use the ZOOM platform as a wonderful tool for English and Mathematics learning, which commences next week. ● ZOOM sessions need to be conducted in times which support onsite logistics and school break times for students. Attached is the adjusted timetable for Week 2 ZOOM Meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ZOOM from Week 2- Parent copy ● Today I gave the following directive to staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If students are being disruptive during ZOOM sessions, please remind them of their ZOOM Etiquette: Student responsibilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If the behaviour perseist, please remove them from the session. |

Thank you for providing our children with the stability they now require more than ever.

Sincerely



John Clery
Principal

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