

# NEWSLETTER

## TERM TWO WEEK SIX 2020

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Principal: Nathan Neilson

### School Term Dates 2020

- Term 1 Tuesday 29 January - Thursday 9 April (Students return Wednesday 30 January)
- Term 2 Monday 27 April - Friday 3 July (Students return Tuesday 28 April)
- Term 3 Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September (Students return Tuesday 21 July)
- Term 4 Monday 12 October - Friday 18 December (Students finish Wednesday 16 December)



### Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is fantastic to be able to write to you in our first newsletter since Week 8 of Term One. The past nine weeks have certainly been a challenge and we are continuing with vigilance to ensure that the school environment is safe and healthy so that we can continue to provide face-to-face teaching and learning for our students. It has been wonderful to see, on average, approximately 95% of our student body return to school each day. While great efforts were made to ensure continuity of learning and connection for our students who were engaged in remote learning, nothing beats the endless possibilities that emerge when students are engaged in face-to-face learning, with their teacher, in their classroom and with their peers. I would like to commend our students on how successfully they have returned to school and readjusted to the routines of

the school day. I would also like to thank our parents and carers for supporting our plans as we returned all students to full time onsite learning. As you are aware, we have introduced new, temporary procedures for morning drop off and afternoon dismissal of our students. These procedures have been put into place at the direction of the Department of Education, who is acting on advice from NSW health experts. While we understand that the staggered dismissal time may create some new challenges for families, it is vital we act within guidelines to ensure we are able to continue with full time face-to-face teaching, and are not forced to take a step backwards into previous phases. As mentioned, these measures are temporary and we look forward to being able to reopen our gates to our community in the near future. I sincerely thank the parents/carers who have supported our procedures by dropping their children off at one of our gates and meeting them at their designated dismissal time. We will

let you know as soon as these measures are not necessary and when you can resume entering onto school site.

### **New GA (General Assistant)**

Earlier this term, a merit selection process was carried out to appoint a new permanent GA to Picton Public School. I would like to congratulate and welcome Mr Graeme Foster to our team. Graeme comes to us with many years of experience in this field from a variety of schools across Victoria and New South Wales. Graeme will be responsible for the maintenance and groundskeeping of the school, and we look forward to working with him for years to come. When visitors to the school site are permitted, you may see Graeme out and about working in our school grounds. I encourage you to introduce yourself to Graeme and give him a big Picton PS welcome. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our previous BA, Bill Channel, who fulfilled this position on a temporary basis for a number of years. We are very grateful for Bill's contributions to our school and wish him every success for the future.

### **Opportunity Class 2021 Applications**

A note will be distributed this week to all Year 4 students who wish to apply for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2021. If you would like to have your child considered for Year 5 Opportunity Class entry in 2021, you need to apply between Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Friday 26 June 2020. You can access the online application at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>. You must not use your child's email address. Further information will be distributed to Year 4 families this week.

### **School Photos**

As you know, our school photos were booked for late in Term One, however, due to Covid-19, we were unable to go ahead with these. Our school photos have been rebooked for Wednesday 5 August 2020 (Term 3, Week 3). Further information will be distributed regarding School Photos closer to the date.

### **Uniforms**

Since the return of all students to school last week, I have noticed a greater number of students coming to school in clothing other than school uniform. While I understand that the circumstances in which we were in posed a number of challenges for families, our uniform shop is fully operational every Tuesday morning. In particular, I have noticed a large number of students wearing long pants with branding down the side, jumpers and hoodies of varying brands and colours and a range of

caps. As previously stated, only school hats are permitted to be worn at school. As of next week, students will be unable to wear any other hat at school. We strongly discourage students wearing pants and hoodies that are not school inform. Can I please ask families to take stock of their child/ren's school uniforms and support our efforts. Picton Public School has always maintained a positive reputation in the wider community and our uniform plays a part in this. Seeing our students in uniform really brings about a sense of school pride. If you require any financial support in purchasing school uniforms, please contact our front office. On another uniform note, as more and more students are wearing jumpers and jackets, it is important to remember to label everything. We have an increasing number of items turning up in lost property daily. When items are labelled with names, they can be returned to their owner. This saves parents and teachers valuable time. Thank you to Mrs Smith, one of our dedicated parents, for continuously sorting and organising lost property. We thank you for the time you give up to support our students and families.

### **Updated PM Readers**

Recently, we spent a significant amount of money updating and increasing our PM reading collection to support our K-2 students in developing their early reading skills. Teachers now have a greater number of titles for each level to support consolidation of reading skills. We ask that you look after and return home reading books so that we can continue to make the most of these updated resources for years to come.

It's fantastic to be back and we are thoroughly looking forward to the rest of the term.

Wishing you all a wonderful fortnight ahead!

Mr Nathan Neilson

Proud Principal



## Uniform Shop Update

The Picton Public School Locker Campus Store is open for normal trade on Tuesday mornings, 9:00 – 11:00. EFTPOS payments are preferred however cash will be accepted. We ask that you adhere to social distancing requirements and that only one customer/family is inside the shop at a time.

If you are unable or prefer not to come into the shop, uniforms may be ordered online at:

[www.theschoollocker.com.au](http://www.theschoollocker.com.au) (Search by school for Picton)

Online orders will be filled on Tuesday mornings. If you wish to have your order delivered to you child's class teacher please choose 'store pick up' as shipping method (no delivery charge) or you may choose to have your order sent by post to your home (delivery fee applicable).

## Long Sleeve Polos now available!

The School Locker is now offering long sleeve polos. The design is the same as for the short sleeve polos but with cuffed long sleeves. Long sleeve polos are priced at \$25 and are available now in store and will be available to order online in the next few days. All other winter uniform items are also available.





## the School Locker

School hats are now available at the uniform shop.  
Opening hours are Tuesdays from 8.45am to 11.00am.



The Uniform Shop is still accepting donations of second hand uniforms. Second hand uniforms will be available to purchase for \$2 on Tuesdays from 9am to 10am next to the uniform shop.

We are in need of winter uniforms if you have any please drop them into the box in the Admin Office please.

### Magpie Box



Please ensure all money is placed into the **Magpie Box** which is on the wall outside the Admin Building.



Dear Parents,

Please provide any speech, Occupational Therapy or paediatric reports your child may have to their classroom teacher. These reports help build a learning profile of your children and help our school to further provide support for them.

– Alison Thomson,  
Learning Support Coordinator



If you are paying any fees by EFTPOS in the office, payments need to be made by 3pm.

Thank you