Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am delighted to be here at Regentville Public School and look forward to working with you and the staff and students for many years to come. It is a rather unusual start, however, with very few students and staff onsite – and even fewer parents! It was not exactly how I envisioned my start in our school! I am sure you will have many questions to ask me and I am certainly looking forward to the time when access to the school site returns to some normality over the next few months.

Firstly, some background information about me. I have been a principal for over 10 years, across two schools in the wider Penrith area. My first principal position was at Mulgoa Public School, just down the road from Regentville, and my second was at Werrington Public School. I have just completed a two-year contract as a Director, Educational Leadership with the Department, and I’m excited to bring my knowledge from this experience to our school.

I am aware that the next few weeks and months will be rather challenging ones for our whole community – parents, children and staff. While I can’t change the guidelines that the Department of Education sets for us, I can promise to keep you informed as swiftly as possible of new developments.

I have no doubt you are aware of the Premier and Education Minister's media briefing last week regarding the gradual transition back to school in Term 2 for our students. This information was published on our website and on our Facebook page, as well as being sent out to you via SkoolBag. It is difficult to ensure we reach every parent by just one platform, so we will continue to utilise all our available communication channels, including email. I apologise for the multiple messages that you may receive!

The Premier also announced that there is to be an additional pupil-free School Development Day on Tuesday 28th April to allow planning for teachers and staff to prepare for the phased return to school. I have attached the guidelines for families published by the Department of Education, which explains the five phases.

As per these guidelines, the remote learning model (Phase 0) will recommence from Wednesday 29th April and will be similar to the end of last term. Families are asked to keep their children at home to learn remotely, if they are able to do so.

On Monday 11th May, we will move into Phase 1 of the managed return to school for students.  In this phase, all NSW students will attend school one day per week and learn remotely 4 days per week.  It is anticipated that we will increase the number of days at school before the end of the term, providing this concurs with the advice of NSW Health.

This week, I will work with the executive team and staff to organise and structure Regentville Public School's Phase 1 managed return for our students. We will communicate the structure as early as possible to you.  The website <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families> has been updated and may have additional information that interests you.

This term will certainly bring challenges, but I am confident we can work through them together as a community. I’ll be out and about before and after school each day across the coming weeks – with appropriate social distancing, of course! Although we can’t meet face-to-face as yet, it will be great to see you – even if it is just through the car window!

Best wishes,

Mrs Jennifer Thompson

Principal

27 April 2020