



The Buzz

Phone: (02) 4969 3903

From the Principal

ISSUE: Term 4, Week 2 2021

Welcome Back

It is great to finally be able to have our younger students return to face-to-face learning this week and we are looking forward to seeing the remainder of our students return the following week.

Islington's staggered return dates:

Mon 18 Oct: Return to school for Kindergarten and Year 1

Mon 25 Oct: Return to school for Years 2-6

| TERM 3 | IPS Calendar |
|------------|--|
| 18 October | Kindergarten and Year 1 Return |
| 19 October | Selective High School for 2023 Applications Open |
| 20 October | P&C Meeting – Online |
| 25 October | Years 2-6 Return |

NSW Health and the Department of Education **strongly recommend** that children wear masks at school. We have also had our ventilation audit to ensure adequate airflow for all students and have additional cleaning 5 days per week to sanitise touchable surfaces.

From 18 October, Islington Public School will be considered a **Level 3+** school. This means, where possible, to minimise interaction between cohorts, meaning no whole school events such as assemblies and presentations, as well as the inability to host grade celebrations or orientation. As such, a few things have been put in place to separate the children as much as possible whilst in Level 3+ including:

- Stage based, staggered lunch and recess areas and times
- Division of students in the morning: Primary (3-6) bottom oval and (K-2) top oval 8.30-8.55am
- We ask, where possible, to please drop your children as close to 8.55am as possible to avoid too much mingling in the playground.

Daily Pick Up Schedule: (Starting 18 October for K & 1)

| Time | Gate | Classes |
|--------|---------|----------------------|
| 2.55pm | Front | 3B & 4/5A |
| | Carpark | KC & K/1T |
| 3.00pm | Front | 2A & 5/6T & Siblings |
| | Carpark | 1/2S & 3/6B |

Siblings will be asked to wait in the top playground until all family members are present. They will leave via the front gate.

In addition, under Level 3+, parents are not permitted onsite to drop off or pick up their children, remaining at the gate. We ask that whilst parents do this, they maintain social distancing and wear a mask. Parents that need to pick their child up during the school day can either sign in at the front



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office or phone from the front gate and have their child delivered to them by our office staff.

Please know, that it is a Public Health Order that all staff onsite have received their double vaccination upon the students return. Double vaccination is also a requirement for any person (parent, contractor, disability provider, scripture teacher etc...) that enters our school. All visitors **MUST** go via the office and provide proof of their vaccination status and sign in using the QR code.

We are hoping that Level 3+ restrictions are in place for a short period, as moving to Level 3 would mean we can open up more end of year opportunities for the students such as Presentation Day and the Year 6 farewell. You will be updated as soon as anything changes.

Mrs Kim Harris, Principal

Attendance

It is understandable that some families will be returning to school with trepidation. Please know that once the staggered return date arrives, online learning will cease and dual modes of teaching for our staff is unachievable. Therefore, any absence will be recorded as sick/leave with an explanation or unjustified if the school or teacher isn't informed of a reason. We are hoping that all the children (and parents) have missed school so much that everyone will be skipping through our front gate.



Returning Laptops and Work Books

If your family borrowed a laptop during the lock down, we ask that you please return it on the day that your child returns to school as students will need access to these devices at school. Please return your device to Mr. Blake so that it can be checked, cleaned and marked as returned.

Teachers are also expecting to have any work booklets returned in order for them to assess where the students are currently working and to account for their home learning time.

NAPLAN

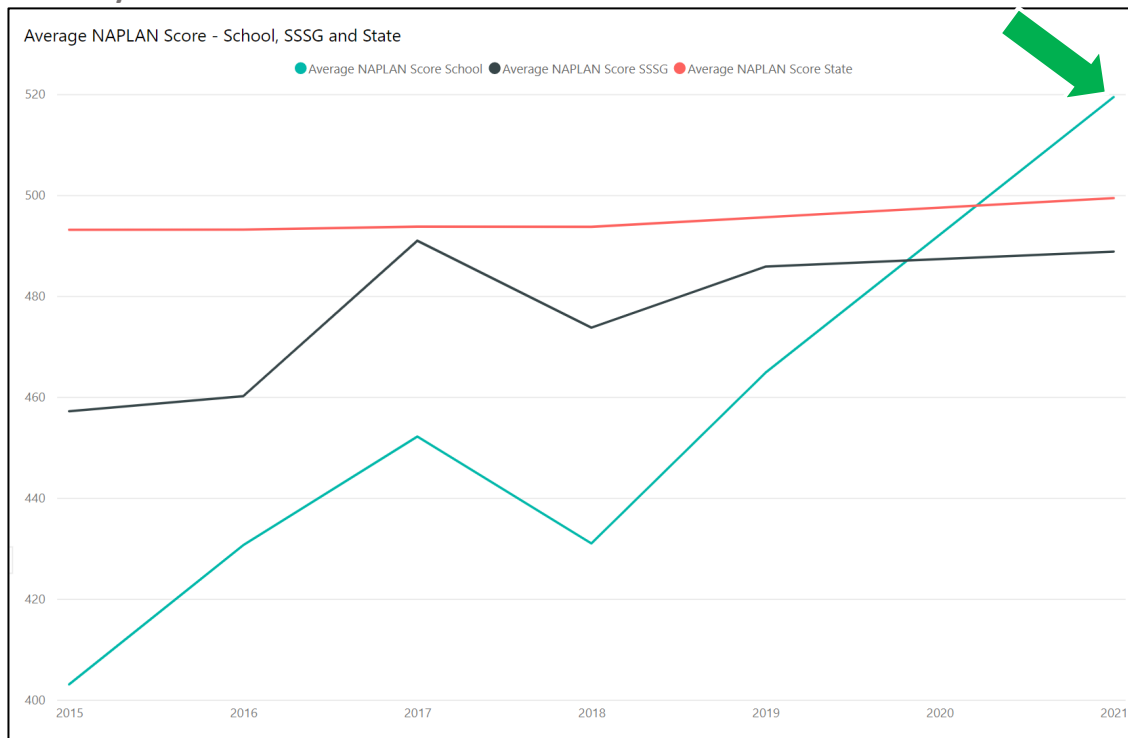
As promised, we will continue to celebrate and share our fantastic results within our Newsletters. Below are our Year 3 and Year 5, 2021 NAPLAN Numeracy results. You will notice that the green/blue line (IPS) is well and truly above Statistically Similar School Groups and State averages. This growth is a result of hard work by both the students and staff.



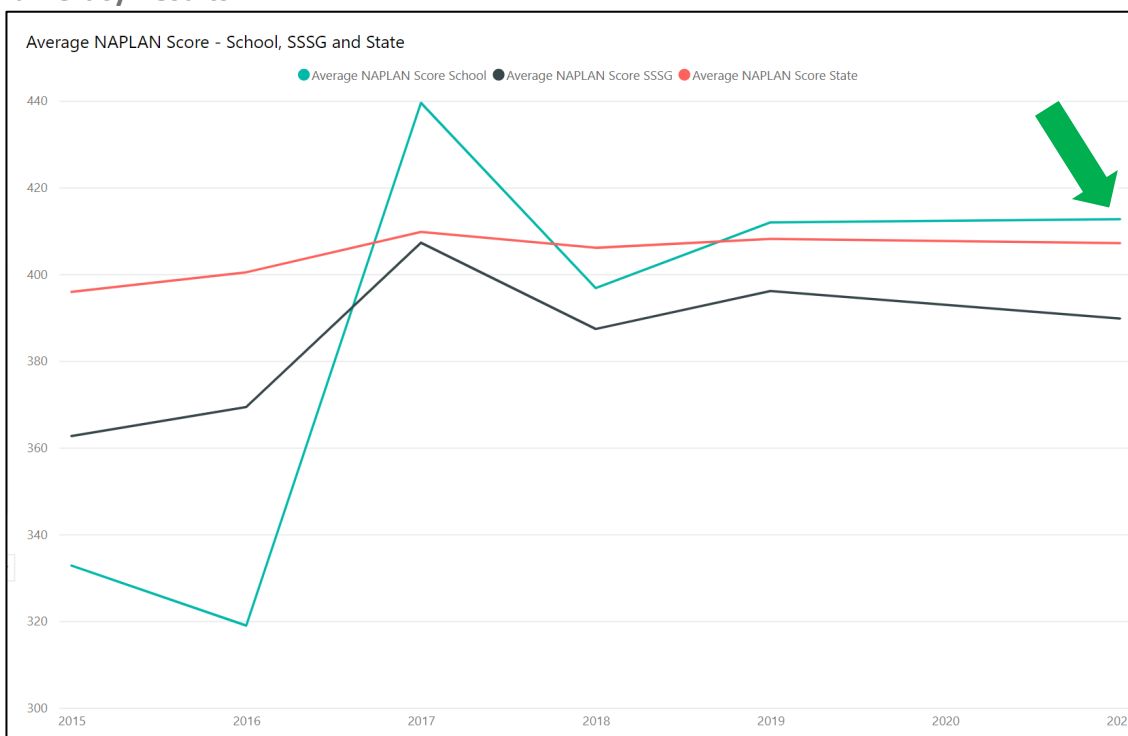
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Year 5 Numeracy Results



Year 3 Numeracy Results





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Kindergarten 2022

If you know of someone that has a school aged child who is yet to enrol, please direct them to Islington Public School office. Transition is on hold for Level 3+ schools, although restrictions could ease, meaning school visits may be allowed at short notice. By having parents/student's information readily available we will be able to contact participants quickly if this is the case.



Newcastle Permanent Primary School Mathematics Competition

Year 5 and 6 students were encouraged to enter the Newcastle Permanent Primary School Mathematics Competition, which was presented online via Google Classroom. This is a first for the competition which has been running for 40 years this year. I am sure many of our parents probably participated when they were at school, I know I certainly did. We had 22 students participate. Each student will receive a certificate from the Newcastle Permanent a little later in the year. Well done to all those who chose to participate.

ICAS Assessments

Several of our Year 3-6 students have indicated that they would like to participate in the ICAS assessments. This was postponed during lockdown, however, the window for test completion was extended and we will be able to complete this during Term 4. I will forward further details to parents and students involved shortly. This is another fantastic opportunity for Islington students to compete on the international stage.

Selective High School Applications for 2023

The selective High School Applications for placement in 2023 are opening on October 19. The process is via an online application. Students will then sit a placement test in March 2022. Merewether High is our local selective high school, however, this test is applicable for those moving to other areas and cities who may seek admission to selective schools in those areas. See Mr. Blake or the school facebook page for further information.

Check-In Assessment and NAPLAN Readiness Test

During the next few weeks students in Years 3-6 will undertake the Check-In Assessment. This is an online test of reading and numeracy skills. All students in Years 3-9 who attend NSW Department of Education schools will complete this test. Further information will be forthcoming closer to the time.

Also, Islington Public School will be participating in NAPLAN Online in 2022. As part of the transition process, we are required to have students sit a small NAPLAN Readiness Test to ensure our systems are up to the task. This will be happening in the next few weeks. Again, further information will be provided closer to when the trial is going to take place.



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COVID-safe

Our school is operating at Level 3 plus



From 18 October all department employees, volunteers and students on professional experience placements required to support the staged return to school need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid medical contraindication certificate.



QR code check-in and check-out required for all staff and visitors.



All staff are **required** to wear a face mask indoors.



Face masks are **strongly recommended** for students when indoors.

Follow health advice and keep your child home if they are unwell.



For the latest information, visit education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19

education.nsw.gov.au

