



Covid-19 – Tuesday 17 March Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As stated in yesterday's advice regarding the Covid-19 virus, the school executive team, along with Mrs Vanessa Williams, Gillieston PS P&C President, met to discuss the ongoing impact and management of this outbreak. The measures described below have been implemented to minimise risk whilst allowing for the operation of our school in a safe and effective manner.

Please note that parents and carers will be kept informed of any changing circumstances through the various school controlled communication platforms namely Schoolzine and See Saw apps, and through our fortnightly newsletter or by written note from the school. Please do not trust or rely upon comments or posts on social media.

RISK MITIGATION PROCESSES

School assemblies – all school assemblies at GPS will be suspended until further notice.

Muster lining-up – the practice of all classes lining up under the COLA at the start of the day and at the end of each break will cease effective today. School messages will be circulated via our SENTRAL system or telephone broadcasts.

Harmony Day activities – our community based activities are cancelled and no parent orders will be accepted by the canteen. Student orders for the day will be honoured. Students will still be able to come dressed in mufti and participate in class based activities on the day.

Easter Hat Parade – our community based activities including the picnic lunch and 'grand parade' are cancelled. Students will be able to bring in their Easter Hats for a class activity and class photos. There will be no P&C Easter raffle or distribution of Easter eggs to students. Students will still be engaging in Easter craft activities and the colouring-in competition. The Bunnings "Eater Bunny" will not be visiting.

Sport In Schools Program – Tuesday morning alternate weeks. This program will continue as it helps to promote healthy, physical activity for our students.

K-2 Dental Visit – postponed

Teen Talk – Year 6 program – checking with presenter may be postponed – to be confirmed

School Development Day – Thursday 9 April – whilst the original whole school activity with other local Rutherford schools has been cancelled we are conscious that many families will have made arrangements for this day. Staff from the school will be engaged in alternate professional learning on this day. There will be no supervision on this day.

PSSA Sports – all PSSA and CHS sporting events at all levels have been cancelled

Scripture Classes – suspended at this time

School Leader's Day – Wednesday 18 March 2020 – cancelled

Individual Education planning meetings (Mrs Miller) – these meetings will still go ahead at this stage. Parents and carers will be contacted prior to the scheduled meeting to ascertain whether they would like to attend the school for face to face meetings or participate in a telephone interview. If you are unwell please opt for the phone interview.



Parent-Teacher meetings – these meetings may still continue however the preferred option will be the use of telephone to conduct these interviews. Teachers will be sending out available timeslots to families in coming days.

Drop & Go – we encourage parents to adopt the practice of ‘drop & go’ to minimise the number of people in the school at the start of each day.

HYGIENE PRACTICES

- Soap and hand sanitisers have been provided for each class.
- Anti-bacterial towels for hand wiping and surface wipe-downs are being trialled this week.
- Hygiene practices will be reinforced as part of our PBL focus commencing next week
- Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell – please err on the side of caution rather than risk spreading illness through the class.

Three actions you can take to help manage the spread



1. **Wash your hands** regularly and thoroughly.

2. **Sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue, disposing of the tissue straight away and then washing your hands.

3. **Stay home if you are unwell** and in schools, send home staff or students who show signs of being unwell through the day.



Gillieston Public School

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CONTINUITY OF LESSONS

I have asked teachers to determine which families have not engaged in with the See Saw app and to provide assistance where needed to ensure maximum usage of this tool. Through the app staff have the capability to set simple tasks which ***may be useful if schools cease normal operation.***

Through the Department of Education website, students have access to Google Classroom and a range of other tools in G-Suite. Our primary students have already had some preliminary lessons with these tools which could be a useful platform for remote teacher/student interaction.

Additionally, classes already utilise a range of commercial programs such as Prodigy, Study Ladder and Reading Eggs to complement class based programs. Further programs and lesson structures will be the focus of the School Development Day on Thursday 9 April 2020.

COMMONSENSE

Our school continues to operate in a manner which promotes learning in a safe, engaging environment. We will endeavour to monitor potential risks for our students and implement measures that will minimise potential risks for our student population.

Part of these measures is to continue to maintain clear communication with you, our parents and carers, to ensure that everyone is kept well informed. It is appreciated if you could reciprocate this open communication and keep us informed of any significant illness that may be impact the wellbeing of others within our school.

David Crowe – Principal (Rel.)