



Gillieston PS Update – Thursday 21 May 2020

Dear Families,

This will be the last daily update developed in response to the conditions caused by the COVID-19 virus and measures undertaken to manage potential spreading of the disease. For the next couple of weeks we will only be providing an update on Tuesdays and Thursdays to keep you informed of how things are going at school both in regards to measures to maintain safety at school, as well as the building works scheduled to commence on Monday. Tomorrow we will return to the normal fortnightly publication of the school newsletter.

The Department of Education has produced a document for families in regards to the “Return to full-time face-to-face learning guidelines”. This document will be sent home via Schoolzine and SeeSaw as well as included in the school newsletter this week. It is the clear expectation that all students will return to school as per normal.

Whilst NSW Health confirms that schools are safe for students to return to, we still need to practice sensible social distancing and hygiene practices to help protect staff and minimise the spread of other viruses. Please help us by following these simple routines:

- Please utilise a “Kiss & Go” approach at morning drop-off. Parents are not to enter the main school grounds.
- Consider where collection will occur at the end of the day - and clearly communicate this intention with your children. We encourage parents to stay with their vehicles and have their children walk to them where practical and safe.
- A water bottle is required as the bubblers are only being used as a refilling station.
- Please do not send your children to school if they are unwell.

The school will be continuing with the enhanced cleaning processes that have been introduced into schools including a mid-day clean and sanitizing program.

There will be no assemblies, sports carnivals or special events conducted in the foreseeable future; however, we are still planning to conduct our major excursions for Stage 3 and Stage 2 much later in the year. We are hoping that restrictions will be lifted in Term 3 which will still allow our students to engage in these meaningful events. Parents are asked to provide the deposit (\$100) for these two excursions to help with planning.

The past eight weeks have been a trying time for everyone in so many different ways. We have had to make significant changes in the way in which we have interacted. We have had to change the way in which we have all supported our children to maintain a degree of learning and engagement. The path back to normality will not necessarily be smooth for everyone and we all need to be patient and utilise sound communication to ensure issues can be raised and rectified in a fair manner.

Thank you for your support of our school, staff and most importantly our students. Let’s hope we don’t need to go through anything like this again!

Mr David Crowe