



Gillieston PS Update – Thursday 30 April 2020

Dear Families,

Today's rainy weather has been a bit of a test of our ability to support social distancing in this current climate but we continue to adapt to provide a sensible approach to our conditions.

Where practical, classes will be kept to somewhere around 12 students in a classroom; however, this number will increase for sessions in the Library or Hall given the larger size of these spaces. Similarly, in wet weather, the use of the Kindergarten building with its large veranda will be used to accommodate larger groups. We were fortunate to only have 46 students at school today, so we were able to manage our breaks in the Library and Kindergarten building during the various downpours that occurred throughout the day.

A number of signs featuring 'Gillo' have been placed at the entrance to the school. These signs are to help reinforce social distancing practices and keep our students, staff and families safe.

- Kiss & Go – we encourage families to utilise the system of kiss & go when dropping students to school in the morning. Adults are asked not to come into the school playground area.
- Collection at the End of the Day – staff will escort students to the grassed area behind Ms Chamberlain's classroom so that students can identify whoever will be collecting them. Student will then proceed to you waiting near your vehicle rather than adults having to wait inside the school grounds. Given the relatively small numbers of students, we do not plan to use various gates or staggered collection times in these first few weeks however this may be a strategy employed as enrolment numbers increase.
- Parents are encouraged to respect social distancing behaviours near the entrances of the school.
- Students attending school may not be in their normal classroom or with their usual teacher during this time. Where reasonable, social distancing and hygiene practices will be encouraged within our classes; however, please be conscious that keeping students separated in the classroom or playground will be difficult.
- Please be conscious that the school has limited undercover areas if we have inclement weather.
- Children that present as being ill throughout the day will be sent to the sick bay and their temperature recorded. Parents will be contacted if staff have any concerns. Accordingly, please do not send your child to school if they are feeling unwell.
- Please ensure that all personal property is clearly labelled with your child's name.

Our gates are open for any child that needs to come to school. Other schools have been contacting telephone surveys throughout the week to gauge possible attendance rates – we will not be doing this. We trust that you will make decisions regarding your children with their wellbeing, and the wellbeing of our school community, in your minds.

The messages of support that have been sent through the school's various social media platforms have been greatly appreciated and valued by our staff. As I said on Tuesday, we all look forward to when everything can go back to normal and we can celebrate our great little school.

Stay Safe

Mr David Crowe