

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Freshwater Bay Primary School has been working diligently to be prepared in the event of a confirmed case of Coronavirus (COVID-19). I reassure all families that we will maintain the safety and security of our school community. The measures we are implementing are temporary. We will bring in social procedures that will help enable our school community to transition through this as smoothly as possible and ultimately return to what we hold dear as a school community.

SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

- All events that involve students going off site have been postponed. This includes Swimming Training, Swimming Carnivals (House and Interschool), and excursions
- All school assemblies will be postponed including the upcoming Edu-Dance concerts
- It is imperative that all children do not come to school before 8.15am so that they can be appropriately supervised and directed to their zones
 - Kindy straight to the Kindy learning area
 - Pre-primary straight to the Hughes learning area
 - Years 1 and 2 to stay in the Cowan courtyard area
 - Year 4 to stay in the CUBE enclosure and lawn area behind the toilets
 - Year 3 to stay on the curved lawn area in front of their classrooms
 - Years 5 and 6 to stay in the Undercover Area.
- There will be strict playground procedures in place. Each year level can play at recess and lunch and areas will be rotated during the week to provide opportunity. If required, we may stagger recess and lunch breaks
- There will be no Four Square before school due to lack of adult supervision
- Students will be dismissed at the end of the day in a staggered process. They will be supervised to exit their school area safely
- Tuesday Treats has been postponed
- There is no sharing of equipment and all technology is wiped down between usage.

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL CONTINUE REMOTELY?

Staff continue to meet daily and have begun preparations in the event of school closure. Our aim is to look after our children and families and continue to work as a school community.

- Our priority is to provide some normality for students and families by supplying some learning activities whilst at home
- We have begun processes so the children will have a structured day. This will be distributed to parents during the week
- Processes are in place to ensure school operations and communication will continue
- Stefan, our school Maintenance Manager will ensure the school is in lock down mode
- Parents will be emailed updated instructions in this eventuality and will receive daily updates.

Steps for this week;

- Students will be given daily work tasks and activities to complete
- Four relief teachers will be employed for Tuesday and Wednesday to release collaborative teams to help prepare implementing Microsoft Teams to support the learning program. Microsoft Teams has just been released by the Department of Education and can include up to 300 participants at any one time. It will enable us to have daily check ins whilst off site. We will also explore the possibility that students can have a daily check-in, for a 30-40 min lesson, to assist us in maintaining the important connection between teachers and students
- Parents will be provided with easy to follow instructions to access this. Students will be involved in trials this week
- I highly recommend that all families familiarise themselves with the program <https://products.office.com/en-au/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>

Please note these ongoing reminders.

PLEASE NOTE: UPDATE TO TRAVEL ADVICE

All students and staff members who have travelled from or transited through Italy must now self-isolate for 14 days before returning to school. Should they develop symptoms within this time, please attend a COVID-19 clinic or call the Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

We recommend any unessential travel be reviewed and postponed to another time.

HERE ARE 6 AREAS WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO FAMILIARISE YOURSELVES WITH

1. The procedure for collection of your Child if the school needs to close
2. How study will continue remotely
3. How we will communicate during these times
4. What parents can do to help control the spread of the virus
5. Important links for further information

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP CONTROL THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS

- For precautionary reasons keep your children home if unwell
- As mentioned in recent correspondence, Freshwater Bay PS has already put in place general hygiene reminders, as per below, for students
- We ask that if your Child is walking or riding to school they take hand sanitiser with them or wash their hands on arrival at the School
- Please have a conversation with your children about the hygiene practices below, especially no sharing of drink bottles and food.

STEPS THE SCHOOL IS TAKING TO MINIMISE THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

Speaking to all students about the need for additional hygiene practices;

- Thorough washing of hands
- Covering mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Avoiding touching their face
- No sharing of drink bottles or food
- Signs on all toilet doors to remind students about handwashing and instructions for thorough hand washing displayed in all bathrooms
- Continued provision of hand soap in all toilet blocks
- Additional cleaning of surfaces throughout the School
- No shaking of hands

- All visitors are required to sign in at the Front Office.

6. IMPORTANT LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

<https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-covid-19-countries.htm>

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/current-alerts/novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>

Department of Education

<https://www.dese.gov.au/news/coronavirus-covid-19>

Department of Health

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Kind regards

Simon

Simon Reid

Principal

Freshwater Bay Primary



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