

Principal's Report

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Assessing the Health of Your Children

Whilst not wishing to raise anxiety levels, I would like to request parents;

- err on the side of caution and keep their children at home when they are feeling unwell
- any child who is living in a home where someone else has returned from overseas must either be isolated before the return or stay away from school for 14 days
- If parents wish to keep children at home the school will respect the right of parents to make decisions, they feel are in the best interest of their families
- Take the time to discuss the situation with your children. They will be hearing many things from many sources and it is best coming from the security and safety of their parents. Below are some good resources to use to help with that discussion.

Talking to children about natural disasters, traumatic events or worries about the future. It feels extremely relevant.

<https://vimeo.com/394049129>

How to talk to your kids about coronavirus

<https://www.nbcnews.com/better/lifestyle/how-talk-your-kids-about-coronavirus-ease-their-fears-ncna1129851>

This is a comic for children explaining the coronavirus

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus>

A 4-minute animated clip for children on coronavirus

<https://www.brainpop.com/health/diseasesinjuriesandconditions/coronavirus/>

SOCIAL DISTANCING MEASURES

Before School

- It is imperative that children do not come to school before 8.15am so that they can be appropriately supervised and directed to their zones.
- Kindy students go straight to the Kindy Learning area
- Pre-primary go straight to the Hughes Learning area
- Years 1 and 2 stay in the Cowan Court Yard area.
- Year 4 stay in the CUBE enclosure and lawn area behind the toilets.
- Year 3 stay on the curved lawn area in front of their classrooms.
- Years 5 and 6 the Undercover Area.
(there will be no four square before school)

Playground Procedures

- There are strict playground procedures for each year level at recess and lunch
- Years 1 to 3 are to play in the Fort area and the school grounds.
- Year 4 to 6 are to play in the undercover area and the Claremont Park area.
- These will be modified and some rotation will occur.

Dismissing of Students each day

- All students will be required to wash their hands before being dismissed from school.
- Students will be dismissed at the end of the day in staged processes and will be supervised to exit the school area safely.
- 3.00pm the following year levels will be dismissed. Kindy, Pre-Primary, Year one, and four.
- 3.03 Years 2 and Year 5 and 6 will be dismissed.
- We ask that all students quickly and safely leave the school grounds.

PLANNING FOR THE SCHOOL TO CONTINUE REMOTELY?

Our priority is to provide some normality for students and families by providing them with some learning activities whilst at home.

Schooling from home

1. It is essential for children to maintain similar routines as going to school. This sense of normality will provide structure for the children and they will find returning to school easier.
2. Recognise that it is different, but not school holidays.
3. We recommend the following;
 - Children get up at the normal time have breakfast and dress in school uniform.
 - Focus on preparing for the day ahead. This means limiting distractions as much as possible and cutting out screen time.
 - We will provide activities for the children to follow this timetable;
 - 8.30- 9.30 Literacy Block (Students will have access to Reading Eggs)
 - 9.30 to 10.30 Structured Writing activity.
 - 10.30 to 11.00 Morning break
 - 11.00 to 12 00 Numeracy block – Card games for Basic facts and designated Mathematics activities.
 - 12.00 noon Lunch
 - 1.00pm to 2pm students will be given an activity from the Specialist teacher to do. (Art, Music, French, Science and Phys Ed.)

PLEASE NOTE: UPDATE ADVICE

UPDATE 15 March 2020: The Prime Minister has announced that as of 12.00am 16 March (AEST) all people returning from international travel must self-isolate for 14 days after the date of return to Australia. Self-isolation does not apply to other members of the household who have not travelled overseas.

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.

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.smarttraveller.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



WISDOM RESPECT COURAGE