

ORANGE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL



Safe Respectful Learners

Dear Parents and carers,

You will be aware of the wider community situation with COVID-19 and I wish to communicate with you the response in our own school community and provisions that have been put in place to begin on Monday, 16th March 2020.

As you know the health and safety of our students and staff is paramount and we are happy to take extra precautions to keep your child/ren safe and well. I would also like to thank you for the way you have shown a calm understanding in response to the emerging information about COVID-19, helping to ensure our students get the right information, at the right level of understanding, at the right time. I will continue to update the community using our SchoolStream app, special notes and the newsletter. Additionally, the NSW Department of Education (DoE) updates the School Safety website regularly.

At this stage our school will remain open. I receive updates regularly from the DoE who are consulting with NSW Health every day. In the meantime, the following measures have been taken at school:

- There will be no assemblies or special event gatherings until further notice.
- All excursions and outside of school sporting events will be postponed or cancelled until further notice.
- Students will assemble after the bell near their classrooms and morning/recess notices will be shared in the classroom. There will be no COLA assemblies.
- Personal hygiene, covering nose and mouth if sneezing, and hand washing will be discussed and promoted at all times. Teachers will build supervised hand washing routines into the school day and our bathrooms are equipped with soap and paper towel.
- Students will eat outside in separate areas during recess and lunch.
- Mouth bubblers will no longer be operational from Tuesday, 17th March. We have a double water bottle refill station at school and I will also designate several taps in various class block areas as refill stations only. I encourage your child to bring a water bottle to ensure they have access to water throughout the day.

It is important for parents to know that our school is cleaned thoroughly at the start/end of each day. All rooms, toilets and surfaces are cleaned daily. I will also be investigating some strategies to conduct regular and enhanced cleaning for high touch surfaces – i.e. door handles, desks, computer equipment, etc.

Children with chronic medical conditions or immunosuppression may be at increased risk of disease. Please make contact with the school if this is the case and we can consider special arrangements to ensure educational continuity.

How can you help?

- As always, we encourage parents and carers to keep children home should they be unwell, this is particularly important in the case of respiratory illnesses.
- Share factual information with children about the virus and explain how good hygiene practices are the best way of keeping everyone well.
- Communicate with us if you suspect your child may have been exposed to someone who has been affected by the virus.
- Arrange for your child to be picked up if administration staff contact you.
- Contact NSW Health if you fit the criteria of symptoms for the virus. There is a dedicated clinic at the Orange Health Service for testing.

Keeping students safe and well at school in their best learning environment is our main goal at Orange East PS.

Glen Bourke
Principal

Resources for Children

Become a Soapy Hero!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EAiqYDucios&feature=emb_logo

Handwashing (Behind the News)

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/handwashing/12024720>

Corona Virus explained (Behind the News)

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/coronavirus-explained/11933838>

Resources for Parents

NSW DoE School Safety website

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety/novel-coronavirus>

NSW Health COVID-19 FAQs

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/alerts/Pages/coronavirus-faqs.aspx>

School Events that have been cancelled or postponed until further notice:

- School scripture (remainder of Term 1)
- Friday Assemblies (remainder of Term 1)
- Open Classroom visits (Week 9)
- Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Interviews – effective Tuesday, 17th March (remainder of Term 1)
- Stig Wemyss Performance on Friday, 20th March
- Athletics carnival
- 'Go Pink for Connor' Fundraising Day – Tuesday, 31st March
- Easter Hat Parade/Raffle – Thursday, 9th April
- PBL Assemblies – Thursday, 9th April
- Excursions to Central west Gymnastics

A full list and information of cancellations or alternative arrangements will be communicated over the coming days.