

# ORANGE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL



*Safe Respectful Learners*

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS – COVID 19 UPDATE 3 - 23 March 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

I am writing to provide further updates to you in relation to our school and the announcements made this morning by the Premier and Education Minister.

**The Premier has indicated that schools will remain open however, parents are encouraged to keep their children at home if they have the capacity to do so.**

### **OEPS 'Learning from Home' Resource**

- Last week we cancelled the Homereading program in its old format. On Friday, we distributed information as to how we are supporting the continuation of Homereading in a new, online format. This includes specific log-in codes for each student for *Reading Eggs* (K-6) and *PM e-Collection* (K-2). Please contact the school office if your child has not received their log-in.
- We have interim '*Learning at Home*' packs available for all year groups. These packs contain a variety of age appropriate work sheets and activities. There is also a cover sheet for these packs which details a range of online sites that provide learning programs and activities for students. There are three options for parents and carers to obtain these packs:
  1. Contact the school office and we will email a digital copy of the pack/s as required
  2. Contact the school office and we will send a pack/s via regular mail
  3. Labelled packs are available sitting on a desk in front of the office
- The Department of Education will be briefing principals today with further information about official resources/strategies to support students learning at home. As we transition to new Department of Education resources and home schooling systems, the '*Learning from Home*' packs we are currently providing will still be useful to parents/carers as a supplementary resource, meaning it can be used optionally with the official Department program.
- In the next 24 hours we will open a new tab on our website called '*Learning from Home*'. This tab will contain all of the information explained above, including the '*Learning from Home*' packs. We will continue to add to this tab to support parents and carers.
- With more parents/carers keeping students at home, our staff will work hard to develop new systems and resources to be used both at school and at home. This will ensure that as much as possible, all students receive a consistent curriculum with as much continuity possible under current circumstances. I will continue to communicate regularly about our evolving resources to support learning from home.

### **Updated School Measures**

For parents who need to send their children to school, as communicated throughout last week we continue to put in place multiple strategies and variations to school operations to support the safest possible work environment under the circumstances. Please be aware of the following additional changes:

- The school canteen will cease all trading, effective Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March.
- We are asking that all payments being made to the school office are made by either online payment or using the EFTPOS facilities in the office.
- Please consider carefully the need to come into the school office. We are requesting that where possible, parents and carers phone or email the office with regard any queries. The office foyer is now restricted to one parent/carer in at a time, with additional people waiting outside.
- We are urging parents/carers coming on to the school site in the morning or afternoon to observe social distancing from other parents or students of approximately 2 metres where possible.

- We are asking all parents/carers not to enter classrooms or hallways inside school grounds.

### **Measures in Place from Last Week**

As per last week we will continue with:

- Cancellation or postponing of special events, excursions, assemblies and external sports activities.
- No COLA assemblies
- No school bubblers. A reminder to please ensure that your child/children come to school every day with a labelled drink bottle.
- Recess/lunch time eating areas have been spread out to support social distancing.
- Personal hygiene practices are regularly taught and reinforced, including supervised hand washing throughout the day.
- All wet areas adjacent to classrooms have been supplied with hand wash and paper towel. Classrooms have been supplied with surface spray for wiping down desks, door handles, etc at the end of each learning period. Teachers have been instructed to have students wash hands at the end of the morning and before/after recess and lunch. The student toilets are being constantly stocked with soap.
- Please cease making any payments for excursions (including the Grip Leadership excursion). Over the coming week we will investigate the most logical course of action for these monies being either reimbursement, crediting or holding for a future rescheduling of the event. Parents will not be out-of-pocket for any excursion or activity which is unable to go ahead (this includes the school dance program).

### **Cancelled Events/Programs**

- School scripture (remainder of Term 1)
- Friday Assemblies (remainder of Term 1)
- Open Classroom visits (Week 9)
- Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Interviews – effective Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March (remainder of Term 1)
- Athletics carnival
- 'Go Pink for Connor' Fundraising Day – Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March
- Easter Hat Parade/Raffle – Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April
- PBL Assemblies – Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April
- School Anzac Ceremony at Newman Park
- Excursions to Central west Gymnastics
- CWA Public Speaking
- School Dance (remainder Term 1)
- Library borrowing
- Homework/Homereading Programs
- Parent /carer Volunteer programs

### **A Reminder Regarding Sick Children**

With regards to students who are ill, on the advice of Mark Scott, Secretary of the DoE, I ask that parents please keep children home if they are feeling unwell. This includes *'if your child has a cold, fever, cough, sore throat, any respiratory illness or flu-like symptoms. By attending school, they could be putting other students and adults at risk'*. He reiterates that *'this is not the time for soldiering on'*.

I apologise for these changes to our operations. Much of what is currently required runs contrary to our normal culture of being inclusive and welcoming of our community. That being said, I am determined to provide the safest possible environment for our students and staff. Please support these measures. As soon as it is clear that outside circumstances have changed, I will look to return the school to more regular operations and programs.

Thank you in anticipation of your support and understanding of these measures.

Regards,  
Glen Bourke  
Principal OEPS

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March