

# ORANGE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL



*Safe Respectful Learners*

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## **NOVEL CORONA VIRUS – COVID 19 UPDATE 6 – 6 April 2020**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are now entering the final week of the school term and I wanted to share with you some updates and important information as we continue to face these challenging times.

### ***Latest Government Advice for School Operations***

As per previous weeks the advice remains the same, the Premier and the Education Minister indicate that schools will remain open however, those parents who have the capacity to keep their children at home should continue to do so.

### ***OEPS and Flexible Working***

- Last Wednesday, all school staff commenced flexible work arrangements. As with other work places, we are following government directives to reduce the number of people gathering and hence at risk of catching or transmitting the Covid-19 virus.
- All staff rotate through a roster. Everyday there is at least one stage team on site (3-5 staff), 1-2 additional casual teachers, at least one office person, at least two School Learning Support Officers (otherwise known as SLSO or Teachers' Aides) and the principal or at least one Assistant Principal who is the delegated Principal on-site (when I am working from home).
- Whether on site or working from home, staff continue to work to support the learning of all students.

### ***OEPS Home Learning Packs***

- Almost all OEPS parents and carers now have the relevant 'Learning from Home' packs for your child or children. In the pack, you will find 5 weeks of work with an overview for each week. Feedback from parents and carers has been highly positive about the packs indicating that they are relatively user friendly.
- As always, we encourage parents and carers to contact their child's class teacher if you require any assistance with the various learning activities and tasks.
- If you have not yet collected your child's pack and would like to do so, please contact the school office to arrange collection.
- A reminder that students should not race ahead of the allocated work in the packs, particularly during school holidays.
- Students that are still attending school are also working through the same work from these packs.

## Communication

- All staff are making a significant effort to contact parents and carers to assist with any possible problems, including phone calls. As staff are rotating between working on school site and from home, you may receive a phone call at times from an 'unknown' number. This is more than likely a staff member working from home.
- To ensure that we are respectful of school/home boundaries, phone calls home will only occur on weekdays between the hours of 8am and 4pm. To ensure that staff also have adequate downtime, particularly when working from home, I have also directed them to only make or return calls/emails between 8am – 4pm on weekdays.
- To assist parents in effectively communicating with staff, I have included a list of staff email addresses below:

<a href="mailto:adam.neal5@det.nsw.edu.au">adam.neal5@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:kylie.bennett14@det.nsw.edu.au">kylie.bennett14@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:adrienne.russell1@det.nsw.edu.au">adrienne.russell1@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:lisa.broad1@det.nsw.edu.au">lisa.broad1@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:alison.crocker@det.nsw.edu.au">alison.crocker@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:meg.mclennan2@det.nsw.edu.au">meg.mclennan2@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:amy.copelin1@det.nsw.edu.au">amy.copelin1@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:nicole.cheney7@det.nsw.edu.au">nicole.cheney7@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:andrew.mellis@det.nsw.edu.au">andrew.mellis@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:nicole.mcnabb@det.nsw.edu.au">nicole.mcnabb@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:bree.dalton@det.nsw.edu.au">bree.dalton@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:nicole.parkes7@det.nsw.edu.au">nicole.parkes7@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:danielle.hay@det.nsw.edu.au">danielle.hay@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:peter.cook46@det.nsw.edu.au">peter.cook46@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:fiona.mcnamara1@det.nsw.edu.au">fiona.mcnamara1@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:sally.davidson6@det.nsw.edu.au">sally.davidson6@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:glen.bourke@det.nsw.edu.au">glen.bourke@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:samantha.bennett32@det.nsw.edu.au">samantha.bennett32@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:irene.iskric@det.nsw.edu.au">irene.iskric@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:samuel.mcgregor4@det.nsw.edu.au">samuel.mcgregor4@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:james.meares@det.nsw.edu.au">james.meares@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:sarah.kable@det.nsw.edu.au">sarah.kable@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:jessica.wyatt4@det.nsw.edu.au">jessica.wyatt4@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:toni.ross@det.nsw.edu.au">toni.ross@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:jodie.whiting1@det.nsw.edu.au">jodie.whiting1@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:tracey.press1@det.nsw.edu.au">tracey.press1@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:john.p.visser@det.nsw.edu.au">john.p.visser@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:vera.kobeleff@det.nsw.edu.au">vera.kobeleff@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:julie.watson6@det.nsw.edu.au">julie.watson6@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:wendee.corby@det.nsw.edu.au">wendee.corby@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:junko.goodacre3@det.nsw.edu.au">junko.goodacre3@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:kellie.frecklington@det.nsw.edu.au">kellie.frecklington@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<a href="mailto:katie.e.townsend@det.nsw.edu.au">katie.e.townsend@det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:kerry.stokes@det.nsw.edu.au">kerry.stokes@det.nsw.edu.au</a>

## Dojo and Google Classroom

- A reminder to all parents and carers where possible to make some time to access the Class Dojo program (Google Classroom for students in Yr 4/5 Seal, Yr 5/6 Galah and 5/6 Goanna).
- If you require assistance for how to access these online learning tools, please either contact the class teacher via email or ring the school office to arrange a message to be sent to the teacher. As always, the teacher may not be immediately available to assist but will endeavour to contact you back to assist with your enquiry when they can.
- Though our *Learning from Home* packs are designed to be used completely off-line if required – accessing and using Class Dojo/Google Classroom will enable far greater support and interaction for your child/children. Each day staff are putting content onto these pages to support the work in the *Learning from Home* packs. These include video recordings of daily greetings, task instructions, stories and additional activities. Many students are also uploading completed work so that teachers can look through and provide feedback.
- A reminder that parents and carers must complete the *Online Learning & Communication Agreement* prior to be able to access Class Dojo. The Google Form can be accessed at:  
<https://forms.gle/VJpRK1CugyUG7ECu5>

- Once the form is completed, the parent/carer is invited into Class Dojo via an email. A reminder - on occasion, certain email systems are filtering this invite into the 'Junk' mail folder. If you have not received your invite, please check this folder. If after 24 hours since completing the Google Form you still cannot find an invite, please email or call the school office and the classroom teacher will chase up the issue.

### ***Stage 3 Chromebooks***

- For parents/carers of students in Yr 4/5 Seal, 5/6 Galah or 5/6 Goanna – you are still able to loan a Chromebook to support your child's learning. Please contact the school office between the hours of 9am and 2:30pm with at least 30 minutes notice prior to picking up the device. This will enable staff to organise the required equipment and support staff to maintain correct health procedures.
- There has been some confusion regarding the cost of the device. We are NOT charging parents any fee to use the device. The cost on the sheet of \$530 indicates the replacement value of the device should it be lost or destroyed.
- To collect a Chromebook, the parent or carer must have completed the OEPS Chromebook Loan Agreement (Google Form). The link below will take you to the Google Form:  
<https://forms.gle/L7SuikvHBr4bUbFF9>

### ***Easter Pyjama Day***

- Every year, our school holds an Easter Hat Parade in the days leading up to the Easter weekend. Though I love this event, I am aware of the challenges of making these amazing hats at the best of times. Given the restrictions we are facing with social distancing and minimising time away from our homes, the school **will not** be holding an Easter Hat Parade this year.
- That being said, we need to have a little fun and Thursday is the final day of what has been a very challenging term. In place of the Easter Hat Parade I would like all students and staff (and parents/carers if you wish) to hold a pyjama day. That's right: a legitimate reason to stay in your PJ's all day – what more could you want!
- During Thursday I will make a Facebook post about our Pyjama Day. If you would like a photo of your child/family to be included, please send through your photo by 1pm Thursday (email: [glen.bourke@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:glen.bourke@det.nsw.edu.au)).

### ***Mr Bourke's Homework Challenge***

- Last week I asked students to send me an email about what has been going on in their lives. The amount of writing could vary between a sentence to a few paragraphs and even include pictures or video if they wished.
- Many thanks to all students who were able to respond. I received so many responses and the emails really gave me a lift through the last week, particularly as the challenges and the stresses have mounted.
- If your child has not yet received their response, please bear with me as I work through each one. They have not been forgotten!

My best wishes go out to all of the Orange East community as we move into this final week of one of the most challenging terms I have experienced. As always, please contact the school office should you have any questions or require assistance with current school operations.

Regards,  
Glen Bourke  
Principal - OEPS