



# Woy Woy Public School

A PRESCHOOL TO YEAR 6 SCHOOL

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*"We challenge and support all students to achieve their personal best."*

Guliyali Preschool



## COVID 19 – School Operations Update – Friday 01/05/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The results of our survey are in, with an overwhelming majority of parents indicating that if their child/ children are coming back for one-day-a-week, than they would like their child to have their classroom teacher on that day, and their classmates present for them to reconnect with. 193 parents responded to the survey and 168 of them, which equates to 87%, selected the option to send their children to school on the same day that their classmates and teachers were onsite. That being the case, we have devised a return to school model that enables this to happen, while at the same time ensuring the safety of the students while they are onsite. To say that teachers are excited at the prospect of teaching their classes again is a massive understatement! They're absolutely thrilled!

The model we have come up with is displayed in the table below. It is important to note that classes from our support unit are not included in this model, and for good reason. To begin with, many of the children in support classes have complex sets of needs, meaning that some are at greater risk of becoming gravely ill if they were to contract COVID-19 and so are staying away from school at this point in time, while others, in order to access the therapy and support they need are already attending for more than one day at a time, which is perfectly fine. (As we've said all along, no child will be turned away from Woy Woy Public School). Mrs Wiliame has put together an attendance roster for students in Support Unit classes that is based on the communication she has had with parents about their children's attendance needs. Similarly, the preschool is not included in this model. Miss Williams and Mrs Arnot will be bringing the Seahorses group back in on Mondays and Tuesdays from Week 3 in groups of ten children per day, and the Pelicans on Thursday and Friday in similar numbers. Mrs Williams will negotiate days for the children from each group (i.e. either the Monday or the Tuesday for the Seahorses; either the Thursday or the Friday for the Pelicans), once parents who have children in K – 6 classes know which days their other children will be returning. Here's the table:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5/6RC	5/6B	3/4C	3/4A	3/4LB
5/6T	5/6H	3/4M	3/4B	2E
2MB	1C	1S	KB & KW	KY

In devising the model we needed to be mindful of the Department of Education's advice that the school shouldn't invite more than 25% of the student population back on any one day. Once you factor in the number of children of people who work in essential services, vulnerable children and the children of parents who have no option but to send their children to school, our numbers are consistently between 20 and 25% each day.

Please note that this timetable does not come into effect until Week 3. We are informing you all now in order to give you some forewarning and some time to organise your families around the days on which their children are due to attend. Next week, students should only be in attendance if their parents work in essential services, if they are considered 'vulnerable' or need to come to school for other important reasons. A huge thank you to our parent community for respecting these guidelines up until this point.

There's a lot more information about the return to face-to-face teaching in Week 3 and the logistical and organisational



*Woy Woy Public School's mission is to provide a warm, caring, secure place where students and their efforts are valued by a committed staff and an actively supportive community.*

**I Aspire is our motto. Respect is our job.**



issues associated with having classes back on site that we need to give to you. This will be sent home next week. Please contact the school if you would like to discuss the allocated days for classes. It may be possible to accommodate people's particular needs when there are extenuating circumstances to consider.

In other important news we have received assurances from Busways that all school and route services to our school are still operating and will be next week as well. Busways would like people to know that health and safety of their drivers and passengers is their top priority and that they will be maintaining extra cleaning on buses, with every bus receiving a disinfectant treatment every day, including all regularly touched areas such as handrails, poles, seats and doors. They have asked for our help in reminding students that they are still required tap on and off with their Opal card or show their School bus pass when boarding.

Thank you again for all of the positive feedback we've received and for the treats and tokens of appreciation. The staff here at Woy Woy PS are feeling very valued at the moment and also very fortunate to work with such a supportive community group. As always, we wish you a safe and relaxing weekend, and good health in the weeks and months to come.

Regards,

Ms Buckley and Mr Betts