



Woy Woy Public School

A PRESCHOOL TO YEAR 6 SCHOOL

Park and Blackwall Roads PO Box 505 Woy Woy NSW 2256

Phone: 4341 3555 Fax: 4344 3927

Email: woywoy-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm sure by now you've either seen or heard about Prime Minister Scott Morrison's Sunday evening address or Premier Gladys Berejiklian's press conference from this morning. Both leaders noted that based on the advice they're getting from their advisors in the federal and state health organisations respectively, they feel that schools should stay open for business at this stage. At the same time, both leaders noted that if parents have concerns about sending their children to school, that they should be allowed to keep their children at home if they wish to do so. This being the case, the school will no longer be recording absences as 'unjustified', as we had previously been directed to, in circumstances in which parents decide to keep their children at home despite them being in good health. Our leaders have made it quite clear that it is your prerogative to decide whether to send your children to school or not given the current state of affairs. We at Woy Woy Public School will respect your decision and will endeavour to work with you to minimise disruptions to your child's learning.

It follows then that if you decide to keep your child at home based upon the advice outlined above, it is only fair that they be able to access schoolwork to complete while they are absent from school. Ms Berejiklian referenced the fact that the Department of Education is working on producing age-appropriate units of work that can be accessed via an online platform, so that there is a standardised approach to teaching and learning for all Department of Education schools. We will provide more information about this initiative when it comes to light. At present we will be implementing the systems that we had put in place for this eventuality.

The work that has been prepared and the platforms that have been selected for the presentation of tasks have been carefully chosen to ensure appropriate coverage of all curriculum areas (where possible), and to allow students an opportunity to continue their learning even if they do not have access to appropriate technology in the family home. The systems for the provision of work that is to be completed at home differ slightly for each stage of learning – Kindergarten, Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 - based on each cohort's ability to work independently and on online platforms. Kindergarten, for instance, will be completing their tasks almost exclusively in hard copy work booklets that have been prepared for each child, whereas students in Year 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to complete their work online using the Google Classroom platform to access tasks.

The most important point at this stage is to remind you of the fact that last week we advised parents to contact the school if they required hard copy work booklets, in order to circumvent problems with access to technology in the home. If this circumstance applies to you, please contact the school ASAP so that your child's teacher can make arrangements to get this work to you.

If you decide (or have decided) to keep your child at home at any stage this week or in the coming days and weeks, please contact your child's teachers for instructions on how to access work for them to complete.

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I Aspire is our motto. Respect is our job.





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The situation here at school re. the implementation of social distancing measures has been evolving almost daily. The latest measures to make you aware of are as follows:

- From tomorrow morning, students will no longer line-up to wait for their teachers when the morning bell rings, but will instead be directed by the teachers on playground duty to move straight into their classrooms.
- Kitchen lessons with Mrs Williamson have been postponed until further notice. Mrs Williamson and Mr Smith will continue to deliver lessons from the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program in regular classroom settings ensuring that social distancing norms are observed and advice re. effective hand washing procedures are followed.
- Parent volunteers/classroom helpers will no longer be required.
- Parents are encouraged to 'drop-and-go' in the morning and to 'pick-up-and-go' in the afternoon.

That's about all for now, although we would like to officially confirm that NAPLAN testing for the 2020 school year will not take place, since we have not yet had an opportunity to do so. One again, we thank you for your support with these initiatives and for the positivity with which you've received our advice on social distancing measures to date – we are extremely proud of the way our school community has stood together.

Daily updates will continue during this time of uncertainty, but as we've stated before, please feel free to contact either one of us if you have any concerns or if there's anything we can do to support you.

Warm regards,

Ms Ona Buckley and Mr Dan Betts

Principals

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