



COBAR PUBLIC SCHOOL

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We are a school community of responsible, respectful learners

We pay our respects to the Wangaaypuwan Ngiyampaa people on whose land we meet and learn

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS – COVID 19

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I am writing to you in reference to the current situation with the Novel Coronavirus and updated operational guidelines from the Department of Education for all schools and to update you all regarding changes to planned events and appropriate hygiene protocols commencing **Tuesday 17th March**. We are taking all necessary precautions to ensure our school remains as safe as possible for our staff and students.

School Events

- All school events including: sport events outside of school, excursions, parent teacher night, PBL Shining Day, Easter Hat Parade, school assemblies, Ngali Preschool on school site, Book Fair, **are cancelled for the remainder of the term**. Once normal operations are resumed we will hold a celebration day including the distribution of awards. Students will continue to receive merits and you are encouraged to send these in as per normal.
- **Scripture will continue** with scripture teachers following strict hygiene protocols.
- Parent teacher night will be replaced with phone calls. We will communicate with parents to organise dates and times.
- Observing social distancing recommendations, students will go directly to their classrooms of a morning, after lunch and after recess.

Professional Learning Events

- All external professional learning events are cancelled for the remainder of the term.

Visitors to school

- Any visitor displaying symptoms of illness will be asked to leave the site and conduct their business over the phone.
- Apart from morning drop off, all visitors must go directly to the front office. All items for students are to be dropped at the front office. Students going home are to be picked up from front office.
- Only essential visitors should be coming onto school site.
- Drop off 8.30-9.00 – a hand sanitising station will be set up at the gate next to the canteen. All visitors entering site will be asked to sanitise their hands.
- Gates between canteen and admin block will be locked at 9.00 and the gate at admin will be reopened at 3.00.
- Visitors entering school site from any other entrance are asked to enter only through the main gates.

Absences

- The school is open and operational and all students who can attend are expected to do so.
- Parents reporting absences due to illness are to be encouraged to obtain medical advice and a certificate to support the absence.

Canteen and First Aid

- Strict hand sanitising and cleaning protocols are being enforced. Only those working in the canteen should be in the canteen, with no children (except Stage 3 students assisting at recess) in the canteen.

Staff and Students

- All staff and students will be asked to sanitise their hands upon entering school site and then regularly throughout the day.
- Staff will be explicitly teaching hand sanitising and sneezing as well as social distancing protocols.

GOOD NEWS

- Our classrooms, including desks, bathrooms, toilets and sinks are thoroughly cleaned every day.
- Door handles, railings, outdoor tables and bag hooks will be wiped over regularly throughout and at the end of each day.
- Windows will be open to enhance ventilation in both classrooms.

SAFETY

- If your child is unwell please keep them at home.
- Ensure they are continuing to practice good hygiene at home.
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with a tissue.
- Sneeze into your elbow.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

NSW Dept Education

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

NSW Dept Health

<https://www.facebook.com/NewSouthWalesHealth/>

Together we can limit the potential for exposure to the Novel Coronavirus. Further updates will be provided as they arise.

Please direct any questions or queries to myself.

Yours truly,

Jonathan Harvey

Principal

Cobar Public School

16th March 2020

