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Newsletter 7

From the Principal's Desk

Hello Everyone,

Things have changed very quickly over the past week, due to the state and commonwealth response to COVID-19. Initial responses here at Newham under the direction of DET is that we have had to cancel excursions and camps and rethink the way we do many activities. At the moment this is an indefinite cancellation. The good news is that we were still able to have our incursions, thank you to all parents who gave their permissions/payments to the two events. It was a relief not to have any students miss out on what were very enjoyable experiences.

COVID-19

Some notes on what we know so far;

Camps and excursions are cancelled indefinitely.

SAKG will be adapted to run from school rather than our excursion to the hall.

The Victorian 'Learning from home' website will only be made available to schools as required (on closure). In its stead parents may find the following useful

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/Pages/default.aspx>

DET parent page of information. Click on this site then go to 'Learning and play' and then 'School age'.

The other most useful site would be NSW education 'Learning from Home' page which is already up and running.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-from-home>

Schools are exempt from the less than 100 people inside requirement, however we have been advised to implement strict hygiene requirements, to encourage social distancing, and to reconfigure activities so that there are no large groupings.

Incursions are still allowed, groupings again need to be considered.

Parents and friends of students who have had to self-isolate due to contact with COVID-19 cannot enter the school grounds.

Coronavirus COVID-19

Compliance is based around schools maintaining good health hygiene at school. Staff will be reminding students to wash their hands and to make use of hand sanitizer. The following is information from the DET website/DHHS- Victoria;

- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing with a tissue, or cough into your elbow
- Dispose of the tissue into a bin and then wash your hands afterwards
- Wash your hands regularly, after using the toilet, and before eating

Unwell children and staff will be sent home in accordance with the department's regular Infectious Diseases Policy. Unwell students and staff should remain at home until symptoms resolve and seek medical assistance as required. The main causes of illness currently affecting Newham students are gastroenteritis, influenza and other common infections. DET expects schools to respond as follows;

- Students with cold or flu-like symptoms or vomiting or diarrhoea should be encouraged to seek medical attention, limit contact with others and stay home until symptoms have passed (24 hours since the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea)

Thursday 19th March 2020

Student Term Dates for 2020

Term 1: 29 January-27 March

Term 2: 14 April-26 June

Term 3: 13 July-18 September

Term 4: 5 October-18 December

Diary Dates

PLEASE NOTE NEWLY ADDED EVENTS ARE BOLD

23rd March	NPS Cross Country
27th March	Casual Clothes Day, gold coin donation End of Term 1, 2:30pm
14th April	Start of Term 2

- If a child becomes ill at school with these symptoms, schools should contact the family and arrange for the collection of the child
- Good general hygiene remains the best defence against infection and schools should encourage children to regularly wash their hands and cover their nose and mouth if sneezing and coughing

Should the level of response required by DET change at any time, the school will inform parents via the newsletter and uEducateUs.

Assembly has been modified, shortened and will commence at 3:15pm. Parents may still attend as long as they practice social distancing.

Incursions

Dion Drummond (an indigenous musician) demonstrated both aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander songs and dances. He selected quite a few students to participate and they followed his direction very confidently. The P-2 classes worked with Sam Harrison to explore the history and science of toys for their Inquiry studies. They came away with some very simple but exciting toys to take home.

Cross Country

Our cross country on Monday 23rd March has been modified to take into consideration COVID-19 requirements. Students will run in the morning session before recess and they are welcome to come dressed in their house colours. The older students will provide marshalling for the junior classes. Any parents wishing to attend please remember to practice social distancing and we will see you cheering at the finish line.

SAKG

As mentioned earlier in the COVID-19 section of this newsletter. It is best for all concerned that we follow the no excursion advice here and modify our kitchen section of SAKG, so that we can cater for the experience within the school grounds. Our walk to the hall, although very local, takes us to a facility that is used by other community groups and we want to consider our impact on others.

Excellence: Resilience / Unity / Responsibility / Respect

From the Principal's Desk

Casual Clothes day

Don't forget the casual clothes day on the last day of term, Friday 27th March. This will be a gold coin donation and the money raised will go towards sending Stationery supplies to the Jarlmandangah Aboriginal Community School in Western Australia.

Harmony Day Bags

This week SWWAAGers were going to be helping the classes do their self-portrait picture for the Harmony Day bag. However due to the number of students not in attendance at the moment it would be a shame for them not to have their picture on the bag. Therefore this activity has been postponed until we are all in attendance.

GRIP conference

Unfortunately the GRIP conference in Bendigo this week has been postponed indefinitely due to the no excursion directive.

Coffee & Cake with the Principal

Due to social distancing requirements, coffee and cake would be difficult in the staffroom and we can't predict the weather for an outside gathering therefore the monthly coffee and cake with the Principal set for next Wednesday will not go ahead.

Notices/Reminders

Water Bottles

In light of current circumstances can we suggest students bring their own water bottle to school please.

Student Bikes

There are a number of bikes in the school shed from the bike ed program that have yet to be collected. If you have not collected your child's bike please do so.

Harmony Day Incursion



Happy Birthday to the following people who are celebrating a birthday:

Annabelle, Finlay, Devrim, Minty, Henry S, Sophie G, Oscar

PROTECT

Protecting children & young people from abuse is our responsibility



Child safe- Newham Primary school is committed to child safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered.

KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON

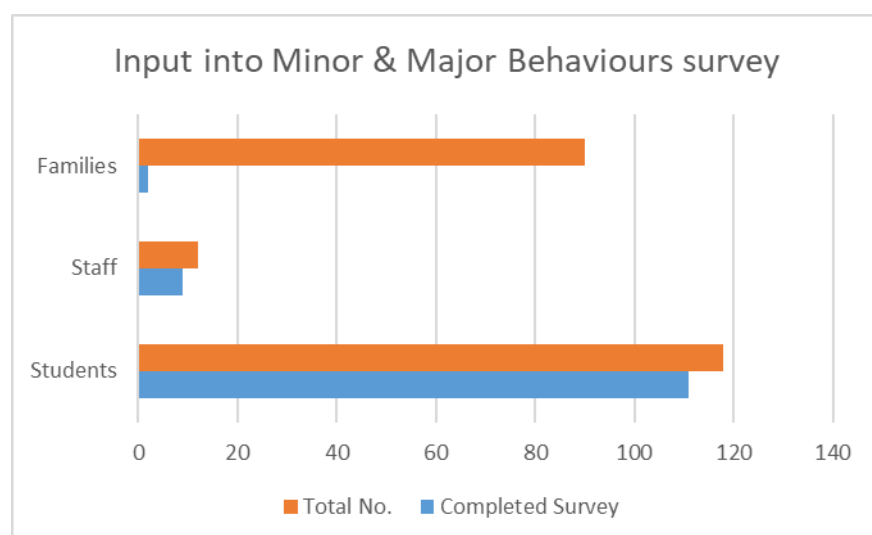
School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

School-wide positive behaviour support (SWPBS) is a framework that brings together school communities to develop positive, safe, supportive learning cultures.

SWPBS assists schools to improve social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for children and young people. When SWPBS is implemented well, teachers and students have more time to focus on relationships and classroom instruction.

It is important for all members of the school community to be involved in the development of this framework, to ensure the fidelity of its implementation is not compromised.

The Newham Primary School SWPBS Team are working on developing Essential Feature 5 & 6 which are the last two components before we fully launch of the framework. Last week in the newsletter we asked parents to take part in a quick survey regarding their views of what constitutes minor and major behaviours. Below is a table highlighting the input of parents, staff and students in the survey.

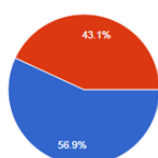


The survey shows some interesting results and perspectives when you compare the different responses from each cohort. For example, below are the results from the question relating to 'screaming or shouting in the classroom'.

Junior Students



Senior Students



Staff



Parents



From these results we will develop a matrix of behaviours defining minor and major.

What is parent engagement?

Parent engagement in education is about parents and carers, schools and communities working together to ensure that every parent can play a positive role in their child's learning, school community, sport, and social life.

Parents and families play an important role in supporting their child's education. Research has shown that when schools and families work together, children do better, stay in school longer, are more engaged with their school work, go to school more regularly, behave better, and have better social skills. Parent engagement also results in longer term economic, social and emotional benefits (Australian Government – Department of Education, Skills and Employment - July 2018)

Kitchen Garden Program

Last week the 5/6's cooked up a storm to provide morning tea for the whole school. Thank you to Carol for your amazing organisation and to Sarah for helping, and Coles Woodend and Woolworths Kyneton for their donations. Coles donated a \$90 gift card and Woolworths two boxes of apples and one box of bananas. Orders were served in compostable takeaway boxes.

We hope everyone enjoyed their snacks!



COVID-19 School Update 19/3/2020

It seems like every hour there is new advice about how schools are to respond to COVID-19. Here at Newham Primary School we are well on our way to being able to hand out hardcopies of work today as well as suitable links to online platforms/resources. The last thing we are required to do is to ensure that what we have can provide us with suitable information on your child's learning should a closure eventuate and on their eventual return to school. Please consider that we are working on this as fast as we can while maintaining a fully functioning learning experience for all children.

Not knowing if or when a closure may occur compounds the issue and families need to realise that there may be different levels of non-face-to-face teaching/closure experiences and that at the moment our staff are obliged to prepare for all eventualities. Staff also need to be able to maintain effective communication over any non-face-to-face period/closure, with your child.

Therefore our system will be as follows (changes to this system are likely to occur as new DET directives come to hand);

1. If your family has decided for the moment to stay away from school/self-isolate, we suggest that the best course of action for school work is to use the website links or talk to your child about project work they may be able to do at home. At the end of next week is school holidays and there is no expectation that this natural break in the school year will require the use of home learning resources.
2. Should Newham Primary School Close, then the resources staff have collated will be available via uEducateUs (the online links) and hardcopy work. The hardcopy work will be going home with your child today and should a family have missed this, the work can be picked up from the office tomorrow as it will be named for each child. Should we have to close completely, any remaining hard copy work can be left for parents to pick up from the door (We will send a uEducateUs message home to say so). The hardcopy work is a short term response for a short term closure (weeks).
3. Regular contact via uEducateUs will be **the required ongoing form of communication between each teacher and their class**. You could expect a message from the teacher on Monday, and they would expect a return message on Friday from each family (This will occur no matter the length of school closure). DET advice is that Staff are mandated to keep track of what each student has done during the week and they will need this information to be able to top up further 'Learning at home' work and gather assessments. Should the period of closure be more than 4 weeks, staff will be setting more comprehensively timetabled tasks, to cater for an extended period. These will be communicated via uEducateUs.

uEducateUs messages will also let parents know of any changes to advice we receive from DET. We will continue to do our best to keep families informed as soon as we have advice ourselves. If for any reason you **do not** have adequate access to uEducateUs, or the internet please let your child's teacher or the school office know as soon as possible. (Internet connectivity could be an issue for our school community. There are staff, and school families with limited access at home and should there be a closure this is something that we will have to work around as best we can. Remote teaching and learning will also be a steep learning curve for all of us and I am positive that with practice we will all get better at it).

Please also be aware that there are a number of learning sites who have offered a months' free use and who may then automatically sign you up for a paid version. Take care to read the Terms and Conditions of any suggested or advertised site you use.

And finally this is an experience that is so fluid and unpredictable that the best we can do is to support each other, ask are you ok? And in the wise words of Dory; 'Just keep swimming'! Rest assured that your child and their learning needs remain are the forefront of our decisions.



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One of the reasons why schools have been kept open by governments across Australia, on the basis of the advice from the health and medical experts, is that people remaining in their routine daily activities, whilst decreasing non-essential social and mass gathering activities, will decrease the opportunities for spread in our community, including those to teachers.

There is evidence that children in households may be infected by adults within the households, which is why all household contacts of confirmed cases are placed into home isolation when a case is confirmed. This will continue throughout the COVID-19 response.

Thus far, approximately 2% of total cases in China have been in children, and there have been no deaths in children under 10 years with very few hospitalisations. There is emerging evidence indicates that the people who are most unwell, and most symptomatic are more infectious than those with very mild or minimal symptoms.

There is not widespread community transmission at this point, and levels of COVID-19 illness are likely to be very low. Children who are at all unwell are advised to be at home, and schools and teachers should exclude any unwell children who present to school. Any children with undetected symptoms are likely to be minimally infectious.

At this point there is no evidence of any school clusters where infections were driven by the student population or student introductions. The evidence is reviewed daily and advice will continue to be tailored to the evidence. Any change in policy advice will consider the risk to teachers as well as the broader community.

Adj Clin Prof Brett Sutton
Victorian Chief Health Officer
Health Protection Branch

19/03/2020

School Uniform Sale



SCHOOL UNIFORM SALE

All current uniform stock on hand must be sold. Please see office staff to purchase.

ALL PRICES HEAVILY REDUCED

Item	Sale Price
School back pack	\$32.00
Library/Reader bag	\$6.00
Polar fleece half zip jumper (red) – size 4	\$12.00
Polar fleece vest (red) – size 4, 12 & 14	\$10.00
School windcheater (red) – size 4 x 2	\$17.00
Bootleg pants (black) – size 4, 6, 10 & 12	\$16.00
Short sleeve polo shirt (red) – size 14	\$12.00
Long sleeve polo shirt (red) – size 12 & 14	\$14.00
Girls gingham summer dress (red & white) – size 8, 10 & 12	\$16.00
Cotton/poly shorts (black) – size 14 x 1	\$11.00
Double knee track pants (black) – size 12 x 1	\$16.00

Community Notices

MEDIA RELEASE

16 March 2020



Council closes facilities and cancels events due to COVID-19

Many of Macedon Ranges Shire Council's public facilities will be closed and events will be cancelled or postponed as a preventative measure following the outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19.

Chief Executive Officer, Margot Stork said Council was taking a proactive approach in order to protect the health and wellbeing of the community, especially elderly and vulnerable people.

From tomorrow, Tuesday 17 March, facilities which will be closed for at least one month will include:

- Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre
- Gisborne Aquatic Centre
- Gisborne Fitness Centre
- All leisure centres in all townships
- Libraries in Kyneton, Gisborne, Woodend and Romsey
- Council service desks at Romsey Community Hub and Woodend Community Centre
- Kyneton Museum.

All arts and culture events at Kyneton Town Hall and other venues, such as the Harmony Day concert at Woodend, have been cancelled or postponed. Visitor Information Centres did not open at the weekend and will remain closed.

Residents who have memberships, programs or tickets at Council facilities or centres will be contacted directly regarding future arrangements.

Ms Stork said Council was following state and federal government advice by minimising large public gatherings, dispensing with non-essential meetings and events, and encouraging social distancing.

"We are committed to acting in the best interest of our community and keeping everyone safe," Ms Stork said.

"This is a constantly evolving situation and we will review our response daily and adjust as required.

"We will keep the community fully informed as the situation continues to unfold."

Council's kindergartens and Maternal and Child Health Centres will remain open until Council is otherwise notified by the relevant Victorian Government departments.

For more information, visit at mrsc.vic.gov.au/coronavirus, the Australian Government Department of Health, <https://www.health.gov.au/> and the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/>

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