



Newham Primary School No. 1913
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Newsletter 22

From the Principal's Desk

Hello Everyone,

Here we are almost at the end of another school year, with some fun and excitement just past and more to come! Last week the P-2 classes had their pyjama day. A huge thank you to Newham General Store for making it special with the inclusion of breakfast boxes. There were a lot of fun games and activities throughout the day.

Next week the 3/4s and the 5/6s will be taking a turn each at 'Sunny stones' for an adventure style day of activities. Wrapped around those dates are the last 2022 Prep transition on Monday and the state-wide yr. 6 - yr. 7 transition on Tuesday. It is wonderful that we can finish the year with some familiar school activities. We are particularly looking forward to welcoming the Preps for 2022!

With the fine weather upon us the sandpit has become the place to be. Currently there are works underway to use up all the sand in the biggest mining construction ever! The callout has gone around the school looking for muscle and hard workers. The students have done this themselves and have made some wonderful advertisements which are around the school. Please see the photos demonstrating their wonderful effort.



We have received the DET shade sail grant for outside workspaces and yesterday a company came to measure up for a large canopy style shade structure that will be waterproof. A whole class or more will be able to sit and learn underneath. It will also add extra shade to the side of our oval, allowing for a variety of uses during sporting events.

Our school leaders had been busy making a video presentation for the kids-teaching-kids conference which took place last week. They did a fantastic job, and I can announce that their efforts have won our school an outdoor seat sponsored by Coles and made from recycled plastics (If you are a regular visitor to Coles in Woodend there are some examples just inside their door).

Friday 3rd December 2021

2021 Term Dates

Term 4: 4 October-7 December

2022 Term Dates

Term 1: 31 January-8 April

Diary Dates

PLEASE NOTE NEWLY ADDED EVENTS ARE BOLD

6th December	Prep Transition 11:30am-12:30pm
7th December	Statewide transition day
7th December	Camp Sunnystones 3/4, departing NPS 8:30am
8th December	Camp Sunnystones 5/6, departing NPS 7:30am
15th December	Reports released
16th December	Grade 6 Graduation 5-6pm
17th December	End of Term 4, 1:00pm

Congratulations to everyone involved in the conference, Newham Primary school received much positive feedback for their efforts.

Even Mary-Anne Thomas our local MP made special mention of Newham Primary School in Parliament and the work we do on biodiversity. Our learning hub is taking shape in the corner of the school behind the blue slide. Eventually there will be room for a class to sit down amongst the flora, learn about biodiversity, take measurements, and make observations.

This week, schools finally received an operations guide update, the details of which have been sent out to families and will be repeated here.

There are a couple of very important points to make clear. Firstly, if a student requires a test for covid like symptoms, the PCR test (nose and throat swab) is the preferred test. A rapid antigen test (RAT) is only an indicator test and is mostly used to continue to confirm a negative result should DET and DH require it. We have heard of testing sites not testing people with PCR tests unless they are primary close contacts. DET sources have suggested that in this circumstance should a test not be available then students may have to stay home until symptoms disappear, even with a RAT. Because every situation is different, parents are encouraged to contact the school to discuss their circumstances.

From the Principal's Desk

Secondly for adults to attend school events such as assembly or graduation, they must be double vaccinated and show school staff their certificate. **This is even the case if the event is held outside.** The latest information on exceptions to this rule concerns unvaccinated parents and then only those **who have already had COVID.** Because having had COVID, they cannot get vaccinated yet, an exemption form is available from the GP. Once this form is updated to the system it will appear on their QR check-in and can be used to attend school events.

Our next scheduled assembly is the last day of school. On this day, please remember that dismissal is at 1pm and assembly will be at 12.45.

In the last week of school there will be a final transition session where students will meet their teacher for 2022. It is incredibly important that we know now about any students planning to leave school at the end of the year. The number of students in each year level makes a difference in the construction of classroom groups and the allocation of teaching staff. Could parents who are yet to inform the office of their plans for 2022 please do so as quickly as possible.

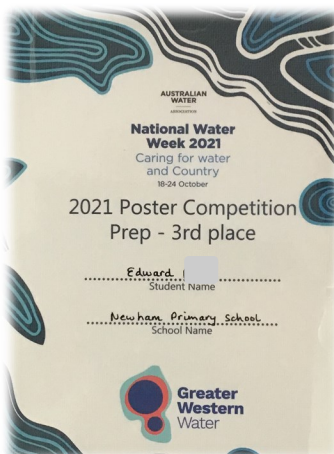
On the same day school reports will be released to families.

Congratulations also to Miss Cole who was able to finally get married! After too many Covid delays Alyssa and Brad tied the knot on Friday 19th November. We wish you both much love and happiness together for your future.

Simone Wood
Principal



National Water Week Competition



Congratulations to our Water Week Competition participants and to Eddie P on his third place. Fantastic effort everyone!

2022 Dates	
Fri 28 th Jan	Staff Return
WEEK 1	
Mon 31 st Jan	All students return
Tues 1 st Feb	Prep ½ day
Wed 2 nd Feb	Prep ½ day
Thur 3 rd Feb	Prep full day
Fri 4 th Feb	Prep full day
WEEKS 2-4	
For February Preps doing Wednesday free weeks on 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd	
Preps start full time in March	



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.

Junior Fun Day



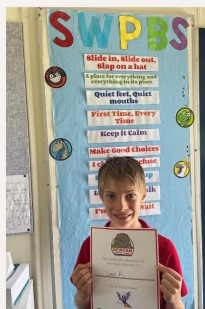
Breakfast games, having breakfast, getting ready for bed games!



Junior Fun Day-Thank you



SWPBS



School Operations Guide – COVID Updates

QR codes, vaccination requirements and Visitors to schools

The use of Service Victoria QR codes for electronic record-keeping is mandatory in all schools to enable contact tracing of any COVID-19 cases.

Vaccination requirements for parents, carers and other adult visitors not performing work

Parents, carers, and other adult visitors not performing work need to show evidence of vaccination when entering a school building. This includes for the purpose of activities such as **school tours and kindergarten transition programs**.

Parents, carers, and other adult visitors attending a gathering at school, such as a graduation ceremony, whether indoors or outdoors, need to show evidence of vaccination on arrival.

All parents and carers attending schools, including for drop-off and pick-up, must adhere to physical distancing, face mask requirements, respiratory etiquette, and good hand hygiene.

Parents, carers and other adult visitors not performing work who enter school buildings must check-in using the QR code.

Parents, carers and other adult visitors who enter school buildings (see examples below) must have had a single dose of COVID-19 vaccine to date and two doses of COVID-19 vaccine by 29 November 2021 or have a valid medical exception. If they have not, there are some limited exceptions in which they can enter school buildings:

- when attending to administer medical treatment to their own child when the treatment cannot be administered by the school
- when attending to collect their child who is unwell and cannot leave the school building unaccompanied by their parent/carer.
- when attending briefly and not involving any sustained contact with staff or students, for example, to collect a completed art project or similar.
- Attending school for drop-off and pick-up and not enter school buildings

When parents and carers do not meet vaccination requirements, the school should hold meetings and other discussions virtually.

Assemblies

Assemblies can take place at school with external guests and other visitors, **if requirements under 'QR Codes, vaccination requirements and visitors to schools' are followed.**

School events and gatherings

Outdoor events are strongly encouraged.

Formals, graduations, and other ceremonies (including events held off school premises and/or with parents/carers and other guests) can take place, however they must align with community settings.

Attendees	Location	Vaccination evidence requirements
Staff and students from a single school	On school premises	Students (including students aged 18 years and over) do not need show evidence of vaccination.
Wider members of the school community (including parents/carers)	On school premises	Adults attending school premises must show evidence of vaccination. Students (including students aged 18 years and over) do not need show evidence of vaccination.

Playgrounds and school facilities

Playgrounds

Playgrounds are open for school and community use.

Use of school facilities by community and sports groups

Schools are permitted to allow external providers to use or hire school facilities.

Please note, current Department of Health guidelines differentiate between community sport, school-organised events and those organised by parents.

School Operations Guide – COVID Updates

Excursions

School students are not required to show proof of vaccination when attending school excursions and activities at venues off school premises when at least one teacher is present. School staff and volunteers will be required to show vaccination status on arrival to the venue.

Schools are not required to check the vaccination of external staff at external venues. Staff working at excursion venues must comply with vaccination requirements of the venue.

Facemasks are not mandatory for students in Grade 3-6 and primary school staff when attending school camps or excursions, although mask use for this group is encouraged when physical distancing cannot be maintained indoors.

Face masks

Please see coronavirus.vic.gov.au for the latest face mask requirements.

For all school settings, the Victorian Chief Health Officer:

- Directs primary school students in **Grade 3-6 to wear a face mask indoors** at primary school, including Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) programs, unless a lawful exception applies. **Students must wear face masks even if vaccinated.**
- (For composite classes that include students in and above Grade 3 and below Grade 3, those below Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear masks).
- Directs all persons to wear a face mask when travelling to and from school on public transport, taxis or ride share vehicles.
- Directs school staff in primary schools (including P-12 and specialist schools) to **wear a face mask in all indoor settings**, except where removal of a face mask is necessary for effective communication.
- Directs visitors to primary schools to **wear a face mask in all indoor spaces** when attending the premises unless a lawful exception applies.

Strongly recommends students in Prep to Grade 2 to wear a face mask indoors at school or OSHC program.

A face mask must cover the nose and mouth. Face shields, scarves or bandanas do not meet these requirements.

There is no requirement for a letter for medical exception for not wearing a face mask from a medical practitioner.

Note: Grade 6 students attending year 7 transition activities at a secondary school are not required to wear a face mask but it is strongly recommended.

Students, staff, and contractors/visitors are encouraged to bring their own face mask. The school will provide single-use face masks for staff, students or visitors who do not have their own or for masks that get damaged/soiled or require replacement.

Management of contacts

Primary schools

In primary schools, people exposed to COVID-19 are likely to be limited to those in the same class as the confirmed COVID-19 case. However, this will depend on the level of compliance with face mask requirements and how much classes may have mixed.

Everyone should consider their health before they start work or attend school. Students and staff should ensure that they are free from COVID-19 symptoms and have not had contact with anyone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19.

Students who are notified by the school that they are a contact exposed to COVID-19 at school should;

- immediately seek PCR testing, and quarantine until they receive a negative PCR test, regardless of their vaccination status
- provide evidence of their negative PCR test to school
- be strongly recommended to complete five days of rapid antigen testing each morning before attending school.

In exceptional circumstances, the Department of Health may determine that close contacts in significant school outbreaks are required to undertake additional quarantine and/or testing. In this scenario, students will be notified directly of any additional quarantine and testing arrangements, including rapid antigen testing.

Staff and families of students who have been told by Department of Health that they are household contacts, are required to notify the school.

Persons fully vaccinated and living with a person who has COVID-19 will:

- quarantine for 7 days
- seek PCR testing on day 6
- provide evidence of their negative PCR test to school
- note that children under 12 years will be regarded as fully vaccinated **if** all persons they live with aged over 12 years are fully vaccinated.

Persons not fully vaccinated and living with a person who has COVID-19 will:

- quarantine for 14 days
- seek PCR testing on day 13
- provide evidence of their negative PCR test to school

Managing Illness in Schools



Managing illness in schools and early childhood

One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

What you need to know

1. If a child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they must stay at home

If a child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school/early childhood education and care (ECEC) as soon as possible.

2. If a child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) outlined below, however mild, they should get tested and they must remain at home until they receive their results:

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss of sense of smell or taste.

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered symptoms.

For further advice:

- call the 24-hour coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline 1800 675 398
- call a general practitioner
- use the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) [online self-assessment tool](#)

Visit: [Where to get tested](#)

3. A child must stay at home until they are symptom free, even if their coronavirus (COVID-19) test is negative

If a person has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or been identified as a close contact they must isolate/quarantine until they receive clearance from DHHS.

Children with persistent symptoms due to underlying conditions such as hay fever or asthma whose symptoms are clearly typical of their condition can continue to attend ECEC/school. They should be tested for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms that are different to or worse than their usual symptoms. They should consider getting a medical certificate from their GP to attend ECEC/school if they have persistent symptoms that may overlap with symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or runny nose.

Younger children (pre-school up to Grade 2) may have prolonged post viral symptoms such as a runny nose or cough and may return to school/ECEC following a negative COVID-19 test even if they are not completely free of symptoms. They will need a medical certificate from their GP to confirm they are otherwise well or have recovered from their acute illness.

For information on the minimum periods students and children need to stay at home for other conditions, refer to the [DHHS school exclusion table](#).

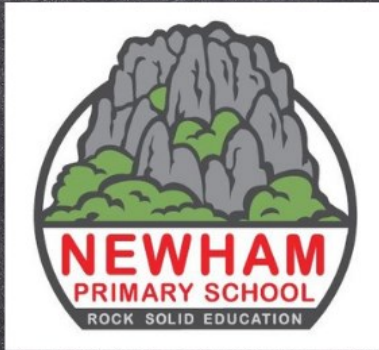
4. Children do NOT need a medical certificate before returning to school/ECEC

Once symptoms have cleared, there is no requirement from the Department of Education and Training or DHHS for children/students to have a medical certificate before they return to school/ECEC.

Thank you for your support in following these steps, together we can all stay safe.



Community Notices



ENROL NOW FOR 2022

**Enrolment forms available from the school website
<https://www.newhamps.vic.edu.au/> or by contacting the
office.**

Ph: 5427 0235

Email: newham.ps@education.vic.gov.au

The following items of equipment are available to the school community. Please contact the school if you are interested or wish to view.



White Outdoor LT946G \$1050 ono



Echo PB2105 Leaf Blower \$100 ono

Community Notices



JOIN. BORROW. PLAY. WIN!

A VICTORIAN STATEWIDE READING PROGRAM

1 DECEMBER 2021 – 31 JANUARY 2022

Hello!

We are pleased to announce the Big Summer Read is taking place at Woodend Library these summer holidays!

The Big Summer Read aims to arrest the 'summer slide' by engaging children and their families in a fun and dynamic campaign through public libraries, supported with resources such as a user-friendly website, posters, downloadable activity sheets, stickers, badges—real and virtual. A competitive element with locally sourced prizes provides added incentive for participation. Distinctive state-wide branding encourages participation in the program, whether children are at home or on holidays elsewhere in Victoria.

The Big Summer Read runs from 1 December 2020 until 31 January 2021.

Register and participate for free at <https://plv.beanstack.org> or come into the library to pick up a booklet.

There are limited prizes available too!

For more information please contact the library by email at

woodend@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Woodend Library

Community Notices



THE PIG IS BACK

We invite you to join us on

• **Sunday, December 19**

Procession of the Big Pigs (from Pig Festival 2014).

- **Big Pigs display at hall from 2.30pm.**
- **Procession 3pm. Pigs in Wheelbarrows.**
- **Led by NPS band to Store to welcome back Cin-Chin.**
- **Welcomed back at hall by Newham drummers.**
- **Hall xmas festivities**

Great photo opportunity!

Thanks to everyone who donated to this cause.



Summer Group Programs
at Village Therapy

These holidays we have tripled the fun, with 3 weeks of groups.

Our Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists and Music Therapist have planned a range of exciting new groups for January 2022. Children will be able to learn new skills and meet new friends in a supported and fun environment.

We offer activities suitable for 4 - 16 year olds. The groups on offer in January include:

- School Readiness
- Learn to ride a bike
- Fun with Cooking
- General holiday program
- Movement and Sport
- Music Therapy
- Minecraft

For more information and to register your interest, scan the QR code below or visit

<https://villagetherapy.com.au/summer-holiday-program/>

Groups run between January 10th - 28th 2022.



SCAN ME

