

Oran Park Public School

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ORAN PARK
PUBLIC SCHOOL

Friday 20th March, 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am writing to you regarding the ongoing situation with coronavirus (COVID-19) and the actions we are taking at school. These are unprecedented times and as a school we are working hard to ensure that school continues to be a safe and supportive environment for our students. I can promise you that we are all doing our very best to look after your children and to continue with their learning.

There are no cases or suspected cases of COVID-19 in school. The Department for Education have confirmed that schools are safe for students and that they will remain fully operational unless advised otherwise by the Department of Health. We will update you if this advice changes.

We are continuing to implement some proactive measures at school to help protect our students and staff.

Supporting good hygiene

Within classrooms teachers are;

- Supervising hand sanitation, particularly for younger children
- Promoting cough and sneeze etiquette
- Introducing regular hand washing schedules throughout the school day for students and staff

Social distancing

- School assemblies - since Monday 16 March 2020, we have not held any school assemblies or large student group meetings
- School excursions - All school excursions have been cancelled until further notice
- School Photos were postponed as we could not guarantee a safe distance of 1.5 metres between students
- Activities and events - All external arts, sports and other activities and events have temporarily been ceased until further notice. This includes whole school sporting events and inter-school events involving three or more schools. As noted, all Zone/District (Razorback PSSA), Sydney South West, NSWPSA and NSWCHSSA activities will be 'temporarily ceased until further notice'.
- Whole school activities such as the school hat parade will not go ahead
- P&C meetings cancelled until further notice
- Conferences, professional learning seminars and meetings - Staff will not be attending large conferences, whole staff meetings or educational seminars.
- All students will go to class upon arrival in the morning. The playground will not be available for whole school use. Student breaks are managed in year groups. There are designated areas for afternoon dismissal.
- Adults on school grounds – Parents/Carers are asked to drop children at school without entering the playground. Parents/Carers are asked to arrive at 3.00pm (not before) and to depart quickly where possible. This will reduce the number of people in the playground at any one time.

We seek your assistance in ensuring that students stay home if they are sick

We have had a number of parents sending their child to school when they are unwell. Our current practice is to call parents to take their child home if they are unwell. Please support our school community! **Do not send your child to school if they are unwell.** The health and safety of our students and staff is paramount. If your child is unwell with respiratory illness, a fever, cold or flu like symptoms, gastro or vomiting they should remain at home until symptoms resolve and, where appropriate, seek advice from a medical practitioner.

Remember as parents and members of our community to also clean your hands thoroughly for at least 20-seconds with soap and water and cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, with a tissue or elbow.

Student Absences

This week we have had very high levels of non-attendance. Acceptable reasons for non-attendance include the following:

1. COVID-19
 - Students who are diagnosed with COVID-19. Please ensure that you advise the school. A clearance letter will be required prior to return to school.
 - Students who are absent due to the requirement for them to self-isolate for various reasons provided by the government.

2. Students who are sick
3. Students who are absent due to special circumstances
 - Parents deciding to keep students home due to valid concerns for the students or other family member's health e.g. students having a low immune system, vulnerable people in the home (elderly/cancer patients etc.)
 - Students who are unable to attend due to exceptional family circumstances – at the discretion of the Principal. For example;
 - Misadventure or unforeseen event
 - Participation in special events not related to the school
 - Domestic necessity such as serious illness of an immediate family member
 - Attendance at funerals
 - Travel in Australia or overseas
 - Recognised religious festivals or ceremonial occasions

As with regular expectations, parents/ carers are required to contact the school with an explanation in the case of non-attendance.

Please contact the school to explain your child's absence. The best method is by email.
Email the school address to explain your child's absence oranpark-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Donna Shevlin
Principal