



Palmerston Road,
FAIRFIELD WEST 2165
Tel.: (02) 9604 5568
Fax: (02) 9725 5379

Fairfield West Public School

Dear parents and caregivers

Mark Scott Secretary of the Department of Education, has communicated additional measures to be undertaken in schools to help manage the transmission of COVID-19 in the wider community. NSW Education has been planning and operating in accordance with NSW Ministry of Health advice to support the safety and wellbeing of students and staff. Based on this advice, a phased social distancing strategy has been implemented as of today, Monday 16 March 2020.

Fairfield West PS is open and classes are continuing. The decision about when and if the school is to be closed will be a directive made by the Department of Education. Any update or advice regarding school closure will be relayed to the school community straight away.

Please find the changes to operation and routine at Fairfield West PS to support the social distancing strategy. The following activities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice: **morning lines- students will move straight to class**; PSSA sport; all school excursions; Assemblies; activities in the Community Hub and whole school events.

Please see a list of upcoming events that have been cancelled or postponed:

- 17/3/20: Horsley Zone Trials/Training Rugby League
- 18/3/20: Parra Legends Rugby League
- 19/3/20: Harmony Day
- 20/3/20: K-6 Assembly
- 20/3/20: Horsley Zone Basketball Trials/Training
- 26/3/20: Vietnamese Story Time
- 26/3/20: Horsley Zone Boys and Girls Touch Trials/Training
- 30/3/20: AFL Paul Kelly Cup
- 2/4/20: Autism Day
- 2/4/20: Sydney South West 11s Rugby League
- 7/4/20: K-2 Easter Hat Parade
- 8/4/20: Cross Country Carnival
- 9/4/20: ANZAC Assembly

Today Fairfield West PS split recess and lunch for all students to reduce the number of children in the playground, this will continue until social distancing strategy ceases. We ask students and parents in the afternoon to exit the school grounds quickly at 3:00pm to ensure "social distancing."

Consistent with current guidelines, students and staff who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. In accordance with our current practice, if any student becomes unwell we will implement our infection control

guidelines. Parents will be contacted and asked to pick up their child from school. Please ensure you can be contacted during the day.

All members of the community are encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly and avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth as this is a major way to pick up infections. The school will reinforce hygiene practices with all our students, and we ask that this be supported at home. This includes:



1. **Wash your hands** regularly and thoroughly.
2. **Sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue, disposing of the tissue straight away and then washing your hands.
3. **Stay home if you are unwell** and in schools, send home staff or students who show signs of being unwell through the day.

Extra soap dispensers have been placed in toilets and classrooms for student access. Students will also be asked not to shake hands and avoid unnecessary touching of their face.

NSW Health has processes in place to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia. A close contact is a person who has spent significant time either face to face (15 minutes) or in an enclosed space (2 hours or more) as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. NSW Health is advising people falling into these categories not to attend work, school or early childhood and childcare services.

The Australian Government now advises all Australians to reconsider their needs for overseas travel at this time. Regardless of the destination, your age or health, if overseas travel is not essential, you should consider carefully whether now is the right time to travel.

More information can be found by visiting the following websites:
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/.../school-saf.../novel-coronavirus>
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/.../dise.../Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

The NSW Department of Education continues to work closely with NSW Health to monitor and respond to developments and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

Your cooperation is appreciated. I will endeavour to keep you updated as the advice changes. If you have any questions regarding any arrangements, I encourage you to call the school.



Genelle Goldfinch
Principal
16 March 2020