



Chertsey primary School

Principal: *Sarah Baldwin*

Ph: (02) 4325 3963

Fax: (02) 4323 6891

ABN: 69 255 277 332

chertsey-p-school@det.nsw.edu.au

Willow Road, Springfield NSW 2250

16th March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I would like to provide an update on the latest information related to COVID-19. The current information is correct as of Sunday 15 March 2020. As you would imagine, this situation will continue to change and develop and it is my vision to keep our community as informed as possible. Please check the date and time on any communication that you receive so that you can be assured you have the latest information.

Our actions are guided by the advice from NSW Health and the NSW Department of Education (as well as Federal Health authorities). As a school community it is important that we respond calmly with both our social and professional responsibility in mind. I ask that you continue to be supportive of our staff, our school families and wider community as we work to positively navigate current circumstances.

Currently, there are no reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our school community. At this point, on the advice of NSW Health and NSW Department of Education, our school will continue to be open and operational. However, as a phased social distancing strategy will be introduced within our school spaces, there will be an impact on current operations.

Implications as of Monday 16 March, 2020:

School Assemblies

From Monday 16 March 2020, there will be no shared school assemblies. Our school will need to explore alternative ways to communicate with students and parents other than through school assemblies. At this stage, awards will be acknowledged in classrooms.

School Excursions

All school excursions **outside of our school community** will be cancelled this term until further notice. We will review planned excursions for Term 2 closer to the end of the term.

Conferences, Seminars and Gatherings

Schools and corporate staff will not be arranging or attending large conferences or educational seminars. Non-essential activities will be reduced. Schools will need to negotiate what this will look like in our current reality, balancing the need to deliver professional learning with the recommendations around phased social distancing. As a small school community, our in-school professional learning will go ahead as planned.



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Stay Home If Sick

The health and safety of our students and staff is paramount. If children are unwell with respiratory illness, they should remain at home until symptoms resolve and, where appropriate, seek advice from a medical practitioner (and call ahead first). We urge all members of our school community to clean hands thoroughly for at least 20-seconds with soap and water as well as appropriately cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and disposing of tissues as well as washing hands afterwards.

Support Good Hygiene in Schools

I urge all families to support good hygiene across our school community. Our commitment is to also ensure that everyone remains well. Any staff member who indicates signs of being unwell will be sent home. Within our school community, we will make time to practice good hand hygiene. We will endeavour to:

- Supervise hand sanitation, particularly for our younger students,
- Introduce regular hand washing schedules throughout the school day,
- Teach and reinforce effective cough and sneeze etiquette,
- Regularly check soap dispensers are full in all bathroom facilities.

We are aware that children with chronic medical conditions or immunosuppression may be at increased risk of disease. As this current health situation evolves, we will put plans in place to consider special arrangements for these children.

Communicating with You

If the school needs to become non-operational our main communication source will be our school Facebook page. We will also send home current information via email and paper note. The Department of Education has a free app that can be downloaded that will alert you if our school is non-operational. This app 'NSW School Updates' is available for iOS and Android phones.

How You Can Help

1. If you have internet access via your phone, download the 'NSW School Updates' app and Facebook. Follow the school Facebook page and turn on notifications on both apps. This will allow you to receive urgent information from the school or NSW Department of Education, if necessary.
2. If your child has a cough, sore throat, respiratory illness, fever or heavy cold or flu-like symptoms please keep them home as would normally be the case. If your child presents with these symptoms at school we will contact you to pick your child up.
3. Reinforce good hygiene habits with your child. Wash your hands (knuckles, between fingers) for 20 seconds, don't share food, avoid touching your face, avoid contact with other students. Send a refillable water bottle with your child.
4. If your child has travelled from overseas please keep them home for 14 days after your arrival back in Australia.



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5. If your child has been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 please keep them home for 14 days. Close contact means 15mins face to face contact from within 24 hours of symptoms appearing or more than 2 hours in a confined space with a confirmed case.
6. If your child or someone at home is at a higher risk from COVID-19 you can contact the school and explain your situation.

I thank each and every member of our school community in advance for your support as we work diligently to navigate the ramifications of this first phase of the Department's social distancing strategy. As a community centre we will make this our single essential priority to put in place practical and reasonable measures to support wider NSW Health containment strategies.

Kind Regards,

Sarah Baldwin
Principal