



# Ironbark Ridge Public School

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Nurturing personal growth through inspired learning...

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

## **Updated response to the Coronavirus COVID-19**

Dear parents and carers,

In response to the current coronavirus pandemic, we are implementing considered and evidence-based systems and actions to enhance the safety of our Ironbark Ridge students, teachers and you, our learning community. The Department of Education has provided all schools with latest advice from NSW Health, and we will continue to monitor the situation and respond flexibly in our students' best interests.

Please note the following:

- Any overseas travellers returning to Australia as of today, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March are now required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days pending any development of symptoms relating to infection with COVID-19. This is mandatory. (This obviously includes any staff members, eg. Ms Attinger 3J ☺)
- Any children showing symptoms consistent with those relating to COVID-19 (ie. fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, respiratory illness symptoms, etc.) should be kept home from school. If your child presents with these symptoms during the day you will be contacted to collect them from school and keep them home until they are 100% well.
- We are avoiding large gatherings of our students at assemblies and meetings, and you will no doubt have heard of our cancellation of excursions, Camp, and sporting events involving other schools. Furthermore, we will be staggering daily student play times to reduce unnecessary student mixing.
- We are further fine-tuning our personal hygiene and handwashing procedures, continuing to ensure that all classroom sinks and bathrooms/toilets at all times have soap, explicitly demonstrating best practice for hand washing on the two different types of taps in the school, etc. Classroom teachers are very closely supervising students to ensure good techniques are developed.
- As advised by NSW Health, teachers will use open classroom windows and ceiling fans to generate cross-ventilation and to improve hygiene further, with air-conditioners used less as the weather cools. Students should bring/wear a jacket or jumper as classrooms may feel cooler as a result.

We also need your help. The busiest times in our school playground occur each morning and afternoon as students and their families arrive at, and leave school. Reducing the number of non-student, non-essential visitors into our school grounds will further reduce the risk of infection to our students. Please note that we cannot completely eliminate the chance of COVID-19 being brought into our school community, but we can greatly reduce its likelihood.

We strongly believe that the best place for our students is in their classrooms with their teachers and friends each and every day, continuing on their learning journey and maintaining as much normality as possible. Our job as their parents, carers and community is provide them with encouragement, support and guidance in these interesting times.

Kind regards,

Nick Thomson  
Principal

a community of safe, responsible, respectful learners