



Ironbark Ridge Public School

Cnr Ironbark Ridge Rd & Withers Rd, Rouse Hill, NSW, 2155.
Phone: 02 8814 5687 or 02 8814 5617
Fax: 02 8814 5698
Email: ironbarkrg-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web: www.ironbarkrg-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
www.facebook.com/IronbarkRidgePublicSchool



Nurturing personal growth through inspired learning...

Wednesday 20th May, 2020.

Return 2 Ironbark Ridge...

Staff are excited and relieved to be getting life and learning for our students back to normal!

On Monday, 25th May, we will begin 'Phase 3' (yep, not sure where 'Phase 2' went... 😊) of the managed return of students to school in NSW... students will all attend school 5 days per week again. Yay!

- *Learning From Home* online platform management will cease on Friday afternoon this week as learning will happen in classrooms again from Monday 25/5.
- If a student is showing any symptoms of illness they must be kept at home and a Sick Leave notification sent through the Parent Portal (*Sentral* app), or via an email to the school office at ironbarkrg-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au. Flexible Attendance will no longer apply.

Ironbark Ridge is a safe zone for our students, so:

- We are continuing to ask all parents and carers to remain off the school site so we can reduce the number of adult visitors and thus minimise the chances of COVID-19 being brought onto the school grounds. Please phone or email the school office with any queries or to arrange a physical meeting.
 - *KTOOSH before and after school care drop-offs and pick-ups are the exceptions to this request.*
- All three school gates will be open for entry and exit by our students in the morning and afternoon. We are naming the gates:
 - Front Gate: to Ironbark Ridge Rd – the car Pick-up/Drop-off Zone will be in operation and assisted by school staff so please pay attention. Display of your Family Name card will assist us in quickly locating your child in the afternoons. (*See below)
 - Bottom Gate: to Caballo St – parking is available but limited. Please remain physically distant from other adults while waiting here.
 - Top Gate: to Withers Rd (beside Rouse Hill High School) – this gate gives access to the carpark at Bruce Purser AFL field. No stopping is permitted in the bus bay outside the High School (Police will be monitoring this site).
 - **Fill out the linked 1-question Form**: at <https://forms.gle/xxwnnVZ6YnKTuZ8Y7> to help us make staff supervision plans appropriately for the three gates.
- Morning drop-offs can be completed at any one of the three gates. Many staff will be supervising the playground and will assist students as they enter the school grounds. Remember, physical distancing is important at all times for adults so please be considerate of others and do not congregate and chat.
- Afternoon school finishes are the most problematic times for us to maintain physical distance and remain safe. As a result, we are planning slightly 'staggered' release times that will work like this:
 - K-1 students will prepare for school end at 2.45pm and will ALL depart via the Front Gate. Please arrive early for their pickup. Older siblings of K-1 students will collect them from their class teacher and bring them out of the school as a sibling group to you. K-1 students without older siblings will be delivered to the Front Gate and supervised by Teaching staff and school Executive until they are collected by you.

a community of safe, responsible, respectful learners



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- The rest of our Year 2-6 students will be walked by teachers to the three gates and staff will assist them to locate you for pick-up at 3pm. **Make sure they know which gate to go to, please ☺
- Use of the pick-up zone in front of the school is encouraged as you will be able to remain in your car for safety and convenience. If you are unable to secure a 'turn' in the pick-up zone, please continue to drive past, around the round-about and back down Ironbark Ridge Rd to try again. Patience will ensure student safety for all.
- A **Family Name card** is being made for each of you to display in your car (at the back of the passenger seat sun visor), or held up in person if on foot. This will be sent home as soon as possible.
- Enhanced school cleaning is a priority for us. Daytime disinfecting of high-touch surfaces (eg. door handles, handrails), bathrooms, and classroom wet areas is being performed by additional school cleaners provided by Spotless at DoE request. Teachers are closely supervising students as they continue to develop and maintain healthy personal hygiene habits and routines. Students are washing their hands with soap before entering learning spaces after play and developing good habits (such as sneezing/coughing into their elbow, refraining from touching their mouth/face, etc.) that will assist them in remaining healthy long after COVID-19 has disappeared.
- Students should all bring their own water-drink bottle to school each day. Please ensure their name is clearly marked on it. The school drinking bubblers remain closed.
- The Ridgy-Didge Kids' Fridge (Canteen) continues to provide the 'Cup Cake' service to support fun student birthday celebrations. This is the only option at present so please do not prepare celebration items to send in from home for obvious infection control procedure reasons.
- Most 'external' school activities continue to be postponed and will not return to operation on the school site until Term 3 at least. This includes, Scripture/SRE, any excursions, Young Engineers and Talent Club. PSSA Sport will not resume until later in the year.
- School Assemblies, including morning lines are also postponed, however we are developing LiveStream options for these to be 'attended' by students from the safety of their classrooms. Class Assembly items may be video-recorded and 'published' internally for families to enjoy from home ☺
- The Uniform Store remains open ONLY for online ordering so please do not attempt to visit in person... visit their online ordering website instead.

We are all relieved to have made it this far together as a community, and the infection rate is extremely low at present so everyone should feel safe about the return on Monday. Be assured that the Dept. of Education and NSW Health are closely monitoring school operations and providing significant support and guidance to ensure healthy, safe environments for learning. We will remain under their guidance and advice and I will keep you all informed of any further changes as we go.

Kind regards,

Nick Thomson
Principal

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