

# Wentworthville Public School

QUALITY TEACHING TO MAXIMISE STUDENT LEARNING  
Term 1 Week 8 2020 Newsletter



From the Principal – Denise Lockrey

## COVID-19

Dear Parents /Carers,

As you are aware the World Health Organisation has declared COVID-19 a pandemic. The situation in regard to COVID-19 continues to evolve quickly with an increasing number of countries having sustained community transmission.

The school will be following the actions below...



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

*(Continued on page 2)*

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Website: [www.wentwthvil-p.schools.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wentwthvil-p.schools.nsw.gov.au)

Email: [wentwthvil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:wentwthvil-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Student Portal: <http://portal.det.nsw.edu.au>

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## VIDEO LINKS

I trust these video links below (from this week) address the notion of school closures in a simple message and also an interview with Kerry Chant, the NSW Chief Health Officer.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_9ZYJftAAo&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_9ZYJftAAo&feature=youtu.be)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mt\\_xvgdfFqk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mt_xvgdfFqk)

I also hope you find these YouTube clips help with questions you may have around school operations and information regarding COVID-19.

The Department of Education will continue to work with the Ministry of Health to monitor and respond to the unfolding international COVID-19 situation. Together as a community we can make a difference in 'flattening the curve' and remaining calm as we care for students, staff and the wider community.

As a school we will keep you updated and our main platform for communication will be via our Sentral Parent Portal. If you have not yet registered **I would URGE you to do so as a matter of priority.** Please contact the office for more information or use the link below.

## Sentral Parent Portal Registration

Our main form of communication to parents is via the *Sentral Parent Portal*. The majority of WPS parents have already joined. In the current situation we find ourselves in, it is critical you register **SO YOU CAN STAY UPDATED!**

### How to register for the Sentral Parent Portal:

Please log on to the internet and register for access to our Parent Portal here:

<https://wentworthvilleps.sentral.com.au/portal/register>



(Continued on page 3)

*Wonderful Happenings at Wenty!*

# Building update!

Enjoy some progress photos below.



*Bricking up the interface with A Block*

**CONSTRUCTION ZONE**



*Lots happening on Fullagar Road!*



*More Fullagar Road action!*



*The new substation arrives!*



# PRINCIPAL AWARDS



Congratulations!

Name	Class	Name	Class
Shreyas - two awards	2C	Saadhvi	2L
Meghna	2L	Samvritha	2L
Sarvesh	2A	Thakshi	2C
Anjaney	2C	Tianna	1K
Vihan	1A	Rita	1A
Heer	2C	Samara	1A
Avani	1K	Abeer	2M
Menaal	1S	Maryam	5/6G
Udit	5/6R	***	



- ★ COVID-19 letter from Mrs Lockrey
- ★ COVID-19 Update

# KG

KG students have settled into class routines and learning activities. Each day we do Literacy and Numeracy rotations. During this time, we work co-operatively with our peers to learn new things.

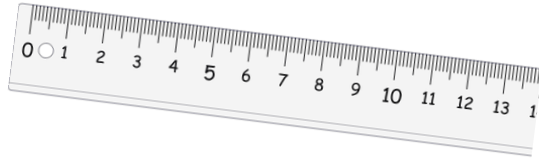
## Literacy Fun

We are learning to identify letters and their sounds, type our names, make words, break words apart using syllables, hear rhyming words and the initial sound in words.



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)



## Numeracy Fun

We are learning to measure long and short things, make 2D shapes and patterns and improve and understand our number facts and addition.



# 3/4W – MANAGING A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

3/4W recently studied the topic of waste. The issue was investigated from a range of angles and perspectives. First, we gathered knowledge and understanding about the types and amount of waste that unnecessarily makes its way into landfill from Australian schools, Australia and the world. Next, the class applied their learning within the contexts of our school and the NSW Department of Education. Problem solving was at the heart of thinking and learning as the class worked in pairs, small groups and as a whole class unit to suggest, analyse and formulate ways that schools can reduce their waste. Students tackled the problem by writing letters, organising realistic, logistical solutions and undertaking marketing and advertising campaigns.



We are hopeful that our work can lead to positive changes within the community.

Mr Williams

3/4W Classroom Teacher

# ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to the WPS Swimming Squad who represented our school at the Wentworthville/ Seven Hills Zone Swimming Carnival at Blacktown Aquatic Centre on Thursday 5 March.



Summary of outstanding performances:

- Le'ole'o: 11<sup>th</sup> 12yrs Boys Butterfly; 16<sup>th</sup> 12yrs Boys Freestyle; 17<sup>th</sup> 12yrs Boys Backstroke
- Anita Ramsundar: 19<sup>th</sup> 10yrs Girls Freestyle
- Jessica Shakya: 15<sup>th</sup> Junior Girls Backstroke

Thank you to Mr Ramsundar for managing the team on the day and the warm support shown from parents in attendance.



Top row (left to right): Jaelle, Lakshmi, Neeti, Udit, Le'ole'o and Anita  
Bottom row (left to right): Priyanshi, Jessica and Taine

Mr Williams  
PSSA/Zone Coordinator





## Library Week 8 Term 1 2020

### Stage 2 Bookmark Making Competition

Every student in Year 3 and Year 4 made a bookmark for their library bag. All students entered the bookmark making competition and 5 bookmarks were voted as the winners and 8 as honour award winners.

These are displayed in the library.

#### *Winners*



#### *Honour Awards*



# World Book Day 2020

Each class was surprised with a book from the library personally selected by Ms Hall. The teachers shared the books with their class and then they wrote a statement about World Book Day's theme 'Celebrating stories. Love reading.'



4L read *The Two Bullies* by Junko Morimoto

**Celebrating Stories. Love Reading.**

Celebrate the wonderful stories for many generations and love reading forever.

4L

2L read *Home in the Rain* by Bob Graham

**Celebrating Stories. Love Reading.**

We like to read to learn new things and to have fun with it.

2L

KA read 'The Most Magnificent Thing' by Ashley Spires

**Celebrating Stories. Love Reading.**

Stories take us to many different places and builds our imagination. Reading is FUN!!!

KA

KA read *Mother Goose* Bruce by Ryan T. Higgins

**Celebrating Stories. Love Reading.**

KA loves funny stories like *Mother Goose* Bruce. They learned lots of new words.



Just a reminder to register for the Sentral Parent Portal so you can receive updates about events at our school. Every family has a special code to register. If you have misplaced your code please see the office or Ms Di Chio so we can facilitate this information to be forwarded to you.

Kindergarten families have been emailed a letter with their family codes and instructions on how to set up their account. A hard copy letter will come out soon as well.

The Sentral Parent Portal aims to provide parents with access to communication features about daily notices and newsfeeds about school events, send and receive absence notifications and access to our term calendar of school events. Over the year other features will also be added to the portal and families will be notified of updates via the daily notices on the newsfeed. When your child is absent you will automatically be sent a notification to provide a response for the absence. Absences can be explained via the Parent Portal app or desktop site.

I am confident that you will see the benefits of your registration immediately and be part of our journey in providing this facility to you. As we progress this initiative, I am confident that the Parent Portal will become more and more significant in your day to day management of your child's enrolment at our school.

Should you experience difficulties please do not hesitate to contact Ms Di Chio for assistance. I also look forward to hearing from you about your experience with our Sentral Parent Portal, and any feedback will be gratefully received with a view to adding further functionality and improvement.





On **Thursday 9th April (Term 1 Week 11)** Class photos, single photos and sibling photos will be taken. Girls are to be dressed in Summer dress uniform, white socks and black school shoes and boys are to be dressed in grey pants, school shirt, grey socks and black school shoes.

In **Term 2, Week 4, Monday 18th May**, the Sporting groups and special groups will be taken. This is when the whole school photos will be taken as well. Students are to wear sports uniform – for sporting groups or winter uniform for other groups.

### Money envelopes and how to pay

Money envelopes have been sent home and instructions on how to pay is on the envelope. **PLEASE PAY THE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER DIRECTLY** at [www.theschoolphotographer.com.au](http://www.theschoolphotographer.com.au) **Do not** pay through our school system. All envelopes **MUST** be brought in **on the day** of the photos **Thursday 9th April, Term 1, Week 11** either empty with an online payment receipt number or cash in the envelope. Your teacher will only collect empty envelopes with receipt numbers up until photo day. **They will not collect cash.**



### How to pay

Go to the photographer's website [www.theschoolphotographer.com.au](http://www.theschoolphotographer.com.au) and select the "Click here for online payments" button and follow the on-screen instructions. Or you can call them direct 9674 9824 and they will take your credit card payment over the phone.

### Sibling photos

If you would like sibling photos, you can pick up an envelope **at the school office**. These photos will be taken on Thursday 9th April (Term 1 Week 11). Please bring in the Sibling photo envelope **on the day**.

Thank you

*Ms Moorhouse*





# Tell Them From Me student survey Frequently Asked Questions

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

## 1. What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey is a measure of student voice that provides school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and experience of effective teaching practices at their school.

The survey is confidential and can be used either as a one-off survey or to identify trends within schools over time and better inform school priorities. The survey is held once a year, with an optional second survey within the year.

More than 157,000 students from over 385 NSW government secondary schools and 127,000 students from over 1,120 NSW government primary schools participated in the survey in 2017.

## 2. What are the benefits for my school?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey provides school principals and school leaders with students' perspectives on their experiences of school and learning. This can be used to help build an accurate and timely picture to inform school planning.

Data reports are provided to school leaders within three business days of the surveys closing. Reports include: a 'one click' PDF summary report of their school's results; interactive charts which look more closely at their school results for specific groups of students (e.g. by gender or year group); thematic reports, e.g. student engagement report; and **trend reports which allow schools to track changes in results over time.**

Schools can compare their results with a replica school – a virtual school of students who have similar characteristics (year, gender and socio-economic characteristics).

## 3. How does this survey relate to the school planning cycle?

The *Tell Them From Me* student, parent and teacher surveys provide valid and reliable data to help schools during the 2018-2020 planning cycle, including with the annual review of strategic directions, development of improvement measures and milestones, self-assessment against the School Excellence Framework and preparation of the annual school report. The survey data can help schools:

- understand students' perspectives on critical aspects of their school experience, such as social and institutional engagement, wellbeing and exposure to quality teaching practices
- provide evidence of areas of strength to support self-assessment and reporting
- engage the school community in discussions to identify strategic directions for school improvement
- establish quantitative improvement measures and help schools track achievement against them.

## 4. How are these surveys different from existing departmental surveys on the School Survey System?

Schools have access to national and departmental surveys of students, parents and teachers through the School Survey System. The *Tell Them From Me* suite of student, parent and teacher surveys incorporate many of the same topics and have some similarly worded questions. However, they also:

- include a number of different measures
- bring student, teacher and parent surveys together in a single reporting tool
- will include data collected over multiple years
- enable comparison with state averages and like-for-like replica schools.



## 5. How will the student, parent and teacher surveys help the department support better student outcomes?

The department is committed to using data, evidence and evaluation to inform its planning and practice. The survey data allows the department, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), to analyse and better understand student performance data and the impact of engagement, wellbeing and teaching practices on student outcomes.

## 6. What kind of questions will the student surveys ask?

The survey questions relate to the following measures for **primary schools**:

Participation in sports and extra-curricular activities	Behaviour at school	Effective learning time
Use of ICT for learning	Homework behaviour	Teaching relevance and rigour
Sense of belonging	Interest and motivation	Perseverance
Positive relationships	Effort	Experience of being bullied
Valuing school outcomes	Skills and learning challenge	Advocacy at school
Positive teacher-student relations	Expectations for success	Positive learning climate

The survey questions relate to the following measures for **secondary schools**:

Participation in sports and extra-curricular activities	Homework behaviour	Expectations for success
Skills and learning challenge	Academic self-concept	Behaviour at school
Experience of being bullied	Truancy	Sense of belonging
Interest and motivation	Effective learning time	Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE
Positive relationships	Effort	Teaching relevance and rigour
Wellness	Valuing school outcomes	Positive learning climate
Academic buoyancy	Advocacy at school	Advocacy outside school
Positive teacher-student relations	Use of ICT for learning	Perseverance

Some additional questions will also be asked to gain a socio-economic status (SES) profile of students. Students do not need to answer these questions if they do not wish.

Schools will also be able to include their own custom questions in closed and open-ended format during the optional second survey. Individual responses to the open-ended questions will not be passed on to CESE researchers.

## 7. Which student groups will take the survey?

The primary school survey has been specifically designed for students in Years 4 to 6. The secondary school survey is designed for students in Years 7 to 12.

## 8. How many students can take part in the surveys?

All students in Years 4 to 6 and 7 to 12 are encouraged to take part. The more students who complete the survey, the more reliable a school's data will be.

## 9. What is the cost to my school?

The surveys are provided free of charge to schools. In return, schools are asked to ensure that:

- time and computers are made available to students to take the survey
- as many students as possible complete the survey.

CESE may also ask schools to take part in a feedback questionnaire once the surveys have finished.

## 10. How will the survey be conducted?

The survey is conducted entirely online during specific survey windows. This will be during Term 1 for the first survey and Term 3/4 for the optional second survey. The survey will take 15 to 20 minutes on average and no more than 30 minutes for most students.

Schools will need to make school computers available for students to complete the survey. Schools will be provided with information and consent forms for distribution to parents. For the Term 1 survey, schools will be provided with unique student usernames and passwords prior to the start of the survey.

To protect student confidentiality, data suppression rules are applied to the school reporting tools where sample sizes are too small.

## 11. Will support be available to schools during the survey period?

Schools will have access to technical support provided by *The Learning Bar*, the company that has been contracted to supply the surveys for the department. A free-call telephone number and email address will be provided to participating schools. Support will be available every day during term time between 8.30am and 4.30pm, before, during and after active survey periods.



## 12. Will training be available to school coordinators?

Online live training and information webinars will be offered to all schools. All school coordinators and principals are encouraged to attend one of these training sessions prior to the survey window. There will also be additional webinars offered during and at the end of the survey period providing information about how to interpret the reports and analyse the data provided by the surveys. Recordings of the training webinars are available in the *Tell Them From Me* online portal in the 'Knowledge Base' tab of the 'My Resources' folder.

## 13. Can I see the survey questions?

Schools will be able to view the surveys online via a password protected portal once they have formally committed to undertaking the surveys. The survey questions are available in PDF form for participating schools. Please note that the survey questions are the intellectual property of *The Learning Bar* and must not be distributed beyond your school or used in any manner other than that stipulated by the department.

## 14. Can I ask my own questions?

Yes. Schools will be able to include customised questions in closed and open-ended format for the optional second student survey. Individual responses to the open-ended questions will not be passed on to CESE researchers.

## 15. How does the TTFM student survey relate to the teacher and parent surveys?

CESE is offering the full suite of *Tell Them From Me* surveys (student, parent and teacher surveys) to ensure schools can capture the views of students, teachers and parents. The surveys are complementary.

For more detail on each of the surveys, see the survey website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>

## 16. Will the surveys all take place at the same time?

The student surveys will take place in the second half of Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3/4. The parent and teacher surveys will take place at the same time as the second student survey in Term 3/4.

## 17. Can our school do one of the surveys and not the others?

Schools can take part in the Term 1 student survey without taking part in either the teacher or parent surveys, or the Term 3/4 student survey. However, we ask that schools commit to do the Term 1 student survey to be able to run the parent and/or teacher survey, or the Term 3/4 student survey. Some exceptions do apply to schools in special circumstances, such as infants schools or schools for specific purposes (SSP schools).

## 18. Has the survey been used in Australia before?

To date, over 1,600 Australian schools (more than 500,000 students) have used the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. Most of these are government secondary and primary schools in NSW. *Tell Them From Me* is also used by schools in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

## 19. My school is small. Will the survey work for me?

To protect student confidentiality, data suppression rules do apply where fewer than five students answer a question. This may limit the capacity of small schools to drill down into their data. For details on ways that data suppression may affect reports in your school's specific context, please contact [support@thelearningbar.com](mailto:support@thelearningbar.com).

Small schools can choose to cluster together, allowing them to pool data. Clustering is completely optional. To form a cluster, all schools involved must agree. If schools form a cluster this will mean that these schools receive a report that shows the combined data from all the schools in that particular cluster. These schools will also receive their individual school report if enough data has been collected to protect student confidentiality.

Please indicate whether you would like to be part of a school cluster when lodging your expression of interest.

## 20. Can infants schools, SSP schools or other schools with special circumstances participate?

The student survey is only suitable for students in Years 4 to 12. It cannot be changed for students in special circumstances. However, infants schools, SSP schools and other schools in special circumstances may do the parent and/or teacher surveys without doing the student survey.

## 21. What provisions are made for students with low literacy?

The department has some advice relating to text-to-voice technology available on the *Tell Them From Me* online portal in the 'My Resources' folder.

## 22. Who will be able to see my school's data?

Schools will be able to see their own aggregated data. They will not see individual student responses.

CESE researchers will have access to student level data for system wide analysis. The researchers are interested in trends only, not individual student responses. CESE will not be able to see responses to your school's open-ended custom questions. No student will be identified in any publication. No school will be identified unless they have given permission.

As with other departmental data, your Director, Public Schools and selected policy staff from state office may view your school's report.

Schools are encouraged to use the data as part of their ongoing community and stakeholder discussion.

## 23. What will happen next for schools that choose to participate in the student survey?

Early Term 1	Schools provided with information and consent forms for parents, at: <a href="http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents">http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents</a> . Training for school principals and coordinators in using the survey website conducted via webinar. Schools provided with student log-ins and passwords.
Mid-Term 1 – end of Term 1	Active period for surveys. Helpdesk support will be available. Schools receive reports three days after closing their survey.
Early Term 2	Training for school principals and coordinators in analysing school survey results conducted by webinar.
Mid-Term 3 – beginning of Term 4	Active period for optional teacher, parent and second student surveys. Helpdesk support will be available. Training for school principals and coordinators in using the survey website conducted via webinar. Schools receive reports three days after closing their survey. Training for school principals and coordinators in analysing school survey results conducted by webinar.



## What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the NSW Department of Education.

CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales. CESE identifies and shares what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

**More information about CESE is available at: [www.cese.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cese.nsw.gov.au)**

## What is *The Learning Bar*?

*The Learning Bar* specialises in research-based design and facilitation of student assessments and survey solutions for both primary and secondary students. The in-house research team led by the President, Dr J Douglas Willms, undertakes extensive projects used in the school system to affect national policy. It is against this research that the survey, *Tell Them From Me*, has become the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of the ten provinces. Globally, more than 6,300 schools and 5.4 million students have participated in the survey over the last twelve years.

Dr Willms recently held the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. He plays a lead role in the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

For purely administrative purposes, *The Learning Bar* will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than *The Learning Bar* and CESE researchers within the department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.

**More information about *The Learning Bar* is available at: [www.thelearningbar.com](http://www.thelearningbar.com)**

If you have any questions about the student survey, please contact CESE via email: [TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au) or by telephone: **1300 131 499**.



**COVID 19 –Update March 18**

Dear Parents / Carers,

18.3.20

These two videos were shared by our Director with principals and I feel they are both worthwhile in sharing the Department of Education's position as well as NSW Health, addressing the notion of school closures in a simple message as well as information around COVID-19.

The first is from Mark Scott, Secretary, Department of Education.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i\\_9ZYJftAAo&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_9ZYJftAAo&feature=youtu.be)

Another worthwhile viewing, is Mark Scott speaking with Kerry Chant who is the NSW Chief Health Officer. This interview was done yesterday.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mt\\_xvgdfFqk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mt_xvgdfFqk)

I hope you find these YouTube clips helps with questions you may have around school operations and information regarding COVID-19.



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.

The Department of Education will continue to work with the Ministry of Health to monitor and respond to the unfolding international COVID-19 situation. Together as a community we can make a difference in 'flattening the curve' and remaining calm as we care for students, staff and the wider community.

Regards,

Denise Lockrey  
(Principal)

# Protect yourself from viruses



**Clean** your hands with soap and water, or hand sanitiser.



**Cover** your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.



**Avoid** close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.



**Stay home** if you are sick.



**Find the facts**

[health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus](https://health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus)

# Term 1 2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Jan 27	Jan 28 Staff Development Day ☞	Jan 29 Students Return Years 1 - 6	Jan 30	Jan 31
2	Feb 3 Kindergarten Cohort starts	Feb 4 Got It meeting 10:30am Got It parent Info Session ☞ 2pm	Feb 5 SiSA Year Three and Year One P&C Meeting Zone Swimming Carnival	Feb 6 PSSA Meeting at Toongabbie RSL 3:45pm	Feb 7 PSSA trials Week 1
3	Feb 10 Berry Leaders Camp	Feb 11 Berry Leaders Camp	Feb 12 Berry Leaders Camp SiSA Year 4/Support Unit and Kindergarten	Feb 13	Feb 14 PSSA trials Week 2
4	Feb 17 Environmentors Stage One Dem 9	Feb 18 Environmentors Stage 1 Dem 9 Parent Info Session and BBQ Scripture Coordinator Meeting in Staffroom 09:30am Got It meeting 10:30am	Feb 19 SiSA Year 2 and Stage 3	Feb 20	Feb 21 PSSA Round 1
5	Feb 24 Wellbeing Week	Feb 25 Wellbeing Week SRE starts	Feb 26 Wellbeing Week SiSA Year 3 and Year 1	Feb 27 Wellbeing Week Swimming Carnival at Merrylands Pool (3-6) Beginning Teacher Network meeting at WPS 3:45pm	Feb 28 Wellbeing Week PSSA Round 2
6	Mar 2 Women in Sports Roadshow 09am	Mar 3 Grip Leadership Conference Got It Program Meeting 10:30am	Mar 4 SiSA Year 4/Support Unit and Kindergarten P&C Meeting SLSO Network Meeting 3:30pm	Mar 5 Zone Swimming Carnival at Blacktown	Mar 6 PSSA Round 3
7	Mar 9 Celebrating International Women's Day (8th March) Cricket Program Stage 3 (TBC) 09am	Mar 10 Exec - Three Rivers for Learning 09am	Mar 11 SiSA Year 2 and Stage 3 Teachers Health Visit	Mar 12 HS Selective Placement Test	Mar 13 PSSA Round 4
8	Mar 16 Cricket Program Stage 3 COLA 09am	Mar 17 Got It Program Meeting 10:30am	Mar 18 SiSA Year 3 and Year 1 ILP Support Unit Meetings	Mar 19 ILP Support Unit Meetings School Tour 2:30pm	Mar 20 Harmony Day (TBC) (in lieu 21st) PSSA Round 5
9	Mar 23 Cricket Program Stage 3 COLA 09am	Mar 24	Mar 25 SiSA Year 4/Support Unit and Kindergarten	Mar 26 Year 6 - Wheelchair Roadshow Early Stage One, 1R, 4L and 5/6W Three Way Goal Setting Meetings 3:15pm	Mar 27 SEAL Program Kindy - Community Room PSSA Round 6
10	Mar 30 Cricket Program Stage 3 COLA 09am	Mar 31 Got It Program Whole Day Training	Apr 1 SiSA Year 2 and Stage 3 P&C Meeting Gina @ SW Softball Trials	Apr 2 Blue Day - Autism Awareness Cross Country Carnival - TBC ☞ 09am 3 Way Goal Setting Interviews - Year 1-6 3pm Zone PSSA Meeting 3:45pm	Apr 3 SEAL Program Kindy - Community Room PSSA Round 7
11	Apr 6 Cricket Program Stage 3 COLA Wheelchair Basketball - Year 3 (TBC)	Apr 7	Apr 8 Got It Program Student Observation	Apr 9 School Photos	Apr 10

# Term 2, 2020

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Apr 27 SDD	Apr 28 Students Return to School Got It Program W1 09:30am	Apr 29 SiSA Year 3 and Year 1	Apr 30 Just Like You Program - Year 2 Stage One Excursion	May 1 SEAL Program - Kindergarten - Community Room
	May 4 School Cross Country Carnival - Wet Weather back up day TBC ☹️	May 5 Got It Program W2 09:30am Got It Program Partner Meeting - Library 4:30pm	May 6 SiSA Year 4/Support Unit and Kindergarten	May 7 Just Like You Program - Year 2 PSSA Meeting Beginning Teacher Network 3:45pm Meeting - Darcy Road PS	May 8 SEAL Program - Kindergarten - Community Room
3	May 11	May 12 Got It Program W3 NAPLAN	May 13 SiSA Year 2 and Stage 3 NAPLAN	May 14 NAPLAN	May 15 SEAL Program - Kindergarten - Community Room Zone Cross Country
	May 18 School Photos - Groups	May 19 Got It Program W4 School Tour 10am	May 20 SiSA Year 3 and Year 1	May 21	May 22 Winter PSSA Round 1
5	May 25 Wellbeing Week Drumming Incursion Stage 3	May 26 Wellbeing Week Got It Program W5	May 27 Wellbeing Week SiSA Year 4/Support Unit and Kindergarten	May 28 Wellbeing Week	May 29 Wellbeing Week Winter PSSA Round 2
	Jun 1 Drumming Incursion Stage 2	Jun 2	Jun 3 SiSA Year 2 and Stage 3 SLSO Network Meeting 3:30pm	Jun 4	Jun 5 Winter PSSA Round 3
7	Jun 8 Public Holiday	Jun 9	Jun 10 SiSA Year 3 and Year 1	Jun 11 Celebrating the Arts Combined Choir Rehearsal	Jun 12 Winter PSSA Round 4
	Jun 15 Life Ed (Whole Week) Drumming Incursion Year 2 and some Support Unit	Jun 16 Got It Program Partner Meeting - Library 4:30pm	Jun 17 SiSA Year 4/Support Unit and Kindergarten	Jun 18 Stage 2 incursion in the hall School Tour 2:30pm	Jun 19 Winter PSSA Round 5
9	Jun 22 Life Ed (Whole Week) Drumming Incursion Year 1 and some Support Unit	Jun 23	Jun 24 SiSA Year 2 and Stage 3	Jun 25 Zone PSSA Meeting 3:45pm	Jun 26 Winter PSSA Round 6
	Jun 29 Life Ed (Whole Week) Drumming Incursion Kindergarten	Jun 30	Jul 1	Jul 2	Jul 3 Winter PSSA Round 7

INSIGHTS

## Leading the way for children during the Coronavirus pandemic



If you're like me, the news of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has your head spinning and your heart pumping. That's only natural as life as we know has taken a seismic shift in recent days.

International travel bans, cancellation of sporting and cultural events, shopping frenzies and talk of school closures continue to dominate the airwaves. Terms such as social distancing, self-isolation and social lockdowns have entered our vocabularies and may soon become part of our daily lives.

Coronavirus is having an unprecedented impact on our daily lives, and will probably do so for some time. While keeping ourselves and children healthy and safe is our main concern, it's also essential to address the anxieties of children and young people during these changing times. Here are some ideas to help inform, reassure and keep children and young people safe.

### Build on what your children know

Children and young people have already been exposed to a great deal of information about corona virus through media, digital means and direct social contact. Their understanding will vary depending on their age and also the quality of their information sources so you probably will need to help kids process what they already know.

Casual conversations with teenagers and older children can be useful ways to glean their understanding. You could ask questions like "What are you hearing about Coronavirus? Is there anything you're not sure about?" Younger primary age children may need a more direct approach with parents addressing their specific concerns without giving too much information that can overwhelm them.

### Check your own thoughts and feelings

Check your own frame of mind and emotions about COVID-19 before talking to kids. Most children are astute mood detectives and they'll gauge their safety by the way you communicate with them. If you tell a child, "You've got to wash your hands or you'll get infected," you are communicating your own anxieties, making it difficult for them to maintain a healthy state of mind. Have a think about how you can frame your instructions and their importance in a way that doesn't heighten your child's anxieties.

### Stay informed

It's difficult to work out fact from fiction, correct from incorrect, information from exaggeration when the news is changing so fast. However you need to educate yourself about the virus itself, including how it's transmitted and how to stay safe. Get information from trustworthy sources such as The Australian Government Health Department website and the current federal government corona virus information media campaign.

## Answer questions truthfully

It's important that parents and teachers answer children's questions honestly in age-appropriate ways and within context of what is happening at the given time. If their sport or hobby has been temporarily cancelled empathise with their concerns, while helping them maintain a sense of perspective.

## Initiate positive action

One way to reduce anxiety and allay children's fears is to involve them in planning and preparation for their personal and group safety. Positive activities such as maintenance of personal hygiene, greeting people with an elbow tap and getting plenty of sleep can help restore a sense of control, that is so important for their wellbeing.

## Find refuge in rituals

Regular rituals such as mealtimes, bedtime stories and regular one-on-one time provide both an anchor to normality and a sense of connection for kids at times of change. Consider reconstituting favoured family rituals at this time if they have lapsed due to lack of time, or lifestyle frenzy.

## Look outwards

In difficult times there is a tendency to look inwards, which is a natural protective strategy. The alternative is to establish a sense of connection and community spirit by focusing on generosity and togetherness. Help children see past their own needs and look for ways to assist others whether it's shopping for an elderly neighbour, helping a younger sibling occupy themselves, or planning an indoor movie night for the whole family.

The Coronavirus presents many practical challenges to parents and other important adults in the lives of kids. Staying calm, keeping informed, and adjusting our own habits are just some of the challenges we face. However a significant challenge is one of personal leadership. That is, during these difficult times we need to be civil to each other, look out for each other and be mindful of the common good in everything we do. In this, we can all take a significant lead.



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