# Dear Parents/Caregivers

# The Media release from Mark Scott, Secretary – NSW Department of Education, last night indicated a ‘phased social distancing strategy’ is to be implemented from Monday 16th March 2020.

# Given the advice we have received from the Department of Education and NSW Health Authorities and in the interest of our student’s safety, we will be putting the following measures in place.

Consistent with current guidelines, students who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. In accordance with the NSW Department of Education’s current practice, if any student becomes unwell, the school will implement infection control guidelines and follow the advice provided by the NSW Ministry of Health as appropriate.

Maintaining good hygiene standards is an important way to reduce the risk of acquiring and spreading respiratory infections. Parents and caregivers are asked to promote good hygiene, including handwashing with soap as handwashing is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.

On 15th March, the Australian Government has put in place new measures for people arriving in Australia. Individuals **must** self‐isolate for a period of 14 days on arrival to Australia, including returning Australian citizens and residents.

You are also required to self‐isolate if you have been diagnosed with the COVID‐19 or if you have had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID‐19 infection.

We are making adjustments to school routine to mitigate spread of the virus:

* Implemented safe handwashing practices including regular hand washing routines introduced into K‐6 classes
* Monitoring of supply in soap dispensers throughout the school
* Ordered sanitiser to supply to each classroom
* For coughing and sneezing, tissues are provided in K‐6 classrooms with subsequent hand washing required. Students must place the tissues in the bin and wash their hands after coughing or sneezing.
* We have postponed indefinitely this year’s Athletic Carnival, Harmony Day activities, Anti-Bullying assembly, school Anzac assembly and weekly assemblies.
* All participation in PSSA and Regional sport (including trials) has been postponed indefinitely. There will be no whole school sport or school based carnivals until further notice.
* All excursions are postponed indefinitely and we are currently seeking advice in relation to refunds for our Year 6 Canberra Excursion in September.
* We are looking ahead to all events and only organising events that bring students together in class groupings.
* We are ensuring classrooms are well ventilated and ensuring good air flow with windows open.
* Students who show symptoms of a cold or flu or are running a temperature should be asked to stay at home.
* If they present at school with such symptoms they will be directed to sick bay where we will contact home to have the student collected.

At this stage students will still be able to play at recess and lunchtime and we will be encouraging social distancing strategies that are been taught in the classroom. Our playground operates as four different areas with each stage allocated one area which will reduce cross stage mixing and keeps student numbers well below the social gathering threshold of 500 people.

Parents and caregivers are asked to not enter the school grounds unless absolutely essential. Please where possible drop students off and pick up outside of school gates. If you need to contact the school please do so via phone or email wherever possible.

As the situation evolves, the Department is working closely with NSW Health to ensure we have access to the latest advice on how to keep our students, our staff and community safe and we are following their guidance.

Three actions parents can take to help their children manage the spread:

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

Regards,

Stuart Wylie

Principal