

# Gidge Gazette

Gidgegannup Primary School Newsletter

Web Site: [www.gidgegannupps.wa.edu.au](http://www.gidgegannupps.wa.edu.au)

Email: [Gidgegannup.PS@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Gidgegannup.PS@education.wa.edu.au)

Issue: 3

Principal: Michael Kovalevs

Manager Corporate Services: Mrs Carolyn Howe

Date: 17 March 2020

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Thursday 9 April

Students last day



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are certainly living in unusual times and I appreciate that the Coronavirus has raised concern in our community, like many communities across the world.

Please be assured we will take every precaution and follow all Department of Education directives to keep people safe.

I am confident that, working together as a community to manage short and mid-term disruptions to our lives, will ensure better outcomes for everyone long term.

The School will be in regular contact with you via Connect, email and newsletters.

### COVID-19

While the situation regarding the COVID-19 continues to evolve, the Department of Education sector has established plans and a team to support principals and schools. It is important that as a school community we apply common sense, factual information and a practical approach to COVID – 19.

If a WA school has to close due to a confirmed case, it will be on advice from the WA Health Department's Chief Health Officer. The Chief Health Officer will, if there has been a positive COVID-19 test result in our school, close our school temporarily while assessment and tracing of exposure is conducted. A thorough school clean will then be carried out to make the school safe for the return of students and staff.

In this situation the principal will receive direct advice and support regarding the closure process and communication materials from the Department of Education's Coronavirus support team.

Upon the school being notified, all families will be immediately contacted and provided with the relevant information. This contact may be during the school day, or before or after school. It is therefore important that we have up-to-date contact details for your children, please notify the front office if these have changed.

Parents will also be advised of the extent to which class work can be completed at home during this temporary closure and provided with the details of how this will work. We are currently working on ways that we can support our students if this situation occurs.

While it is acknowledged that this may be a stressful time for the community, parents are reminded that schools open and close all of the time and that the reason for any school closure will be to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

### How to minimise the spread of COVID-19

- Frequently washing your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or using an alcohol based hand gel
- Refraining from touching mouth and nose
- If coughing or sneezing, covering your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow
- Dispose of the tissue immediately after use and perform hand hygiene
- Avoiding close contact with anyone if you, or they, have a cold or flu-like symptoms (maintain a distance of at least 1 metre).

### Who cannot attend school – advice as at 16 March 2020

The Prime Minister has introduced measures placed on international arrivals into Australia. This means a mandatory 14 day self-isolation requirement will be placed on all international arrivals into Australia.

Students or staff who have been tested for COVID-19 should follow the advice of the WA Department of Health and stay away from school whilst awaiting results.

Students or staff also need to self-quarantine if they have been informed by public health authorities that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus. They must isolate themselves for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case.

### COVID-19 symptoms

People with COVID-19 may experience:

- fever;
- flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue; or
- shortness of breath.

For the latest health information and health related enquiries please visit [WA Department of Health](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/) or access the helpline 1800 020 080.

### COVID-19 testing

The WA Chief Health Officer, Dr Andrew Robertson, has advised people should not go to be tested for COVID-19 to either COVID Clinics or GPs unless they are currently experiencing symptoms and meet the testing criteria.

To be eligible for testing people must:

- be currently experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough or sore throat AND have
- returned from overseas travel in the last 14 days
- OR be currently experiencing symptoms, and be a contact of a confirmed case
- OR be currently experiencing symptoms and believe they have been in close contact with a person infected with COVID-19.

### Additional questions and answers

#### Q: Who can/cannot attend school?

Students or staff cannot attend school and need to self-quarantine if they have:

#### a) Returned from overseas – must quarantine for 14 days

b) been informed by public health authorities that they have been in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus, they must isolate themselves for 14 days after the date of last contact with the confirmed case.

### c) Awaiting results of a COVID-19 test

The above also applies to all parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites.

### Q. If I have a staff member who resides with someone who has recently travelled from identified countries, does the staff member need to isolate?

No. These staff should attend work, unless they display symptoms or if they have been identified as being in close contact with a confirmed case of coronavirus.

### Q. Should students or staff attend school if they live in the same household as people in self-isolation?

Yes, they can attend school, unless they show symptoms or have travelled overseas.

### Prevent the spread of COVID-19

Follow these steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and slow its transmission.

For the latest health information and health related enquiries, refer to the [WA Department of Health](#) or phone the helpline 1800 020 080.

### Regular and thorough hand-washing

Staff and students should:

- wash hands with soap and running water when hands are visibly dirty;
- wash hands with soap and water and use alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR), before and after eating or prior to food preparation;
- wash hands with soap and water after going to the toilet;
- avoid using handkerchiefs;
- cough and sneeze with a tissue or bent elbow, dispose of used tissues immediately, and use ABHR or soap and water;
- avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose;
- wash hands with soap and water or ABHR when caring for the sick;
- **if unwell, avoid contact with others. Sick children and adults need to stay away from school until they are well;** and
- make sure workplaces are clean and hygienic, surfaces (e.g. desks and tables) and objects (e.g. telephones, keyboards) need to be wiped with disinfectant regularly.

### School Event Cancellations / Postponements

Due to the current climate the following events have had to be postponed or cancelled:

- The Year Five Zoo camp - cancelled. We will look in to re-scheduling later in the year.
- The HEC Public Speaking - cancelled. (May be re-scheduled later in the year)
- Running Club - postponed until further notice.
- Class assemblies (including cake stalls) - postponed until further notice. Will be re-scheduled for later in the year.
- Easter Assembly – cancelled (Will still do the raffle draw, prizes delivered to students.)
- T20 Blast - cancelled
- ANZAC Service – cancelled
- CWA ANZAC workshops - cancelled

## 2020 Voluntary Contributions

We would appreciate payment of 2020 voluntary contributions as soon as possible. The contribution is \$40 per Kindergarten student and \$60 per Pre Primary – Year 6 student. These contributions are an important addition to your child's schooling, as funds collected go towards the purchase of extra classroom resources, or subsidies for activities during the year.

Payment can be made to the office or the classroom teacher by cash or cheque (made out to Gidgegannup Primary School). Payment envelopes are available from the Office or the classroom teacher. Alternatively, Direct Deposit is available.

Gidgegannup PS

BSB: 633 000

Account: 156300055

Please include your child's surname, room number and the payment reason.

Eg: Citizen, Room 1 Vol Cons (Voluntary Contributions)

We would like to thank families who have already paid contributions for this year.

## REMINDERS

### Student Absences – SkoolBag App / MessageYou

From April we will **no longer** be using the SkoolBag App. The Department of Education WA's Connect program has the same functions and is free. The MessageYou mobile phone system has been discontinued and as such we won't be using it any more. If your child is absent due to illness, please phone, use the Connect absentee form or email the school in the morning, or send a written note to the class teacher upon return.

If parents need to pick up students from school during the days for appointments, PEAC or similar activities, please ensure they are signed out at the front office prior to collecting them from the classroom.

Michael Kovalevs

Principal

## P&C News



**EASTER RAFFLE**

**THURSDAY 9TH APRIL**

**TICKETS \$1**

**Last year, we had over 100 prizes to give away!**

.....

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR DONATIONS IN BEFORE FRIDAY 4TH APRIL**

Made with PosterMyWall.com



**EASTER RAFFLE**

**THURSDAY 9TH APRIL**

There are two ways in which parents can help make this raffle even more successful than last year:

1. Buy the tickets which have been sent home for \$1 each. Please return tickets and money to school by Friday 3rd April. (Ensure name, room number or phone number are clearly written on ALL tickets)
2. Donate some Easter Eggs, chocolate, baskets or other related products. Please label your donation with their dollar value and your child's name and take them to the front office. Your child will then receive that dollar amount of extra tickets in the Easter Raffle eg \$5 rabbit will equal 5 more tickets.

\*\*Please note these tickets will go straight into the draw and will not come to your child.\*\*

**Last year, we had over 100 prizes to give away!**

.....

**Please have your donations in before Friday 3rd April**

Made with PosterMyWall.com