Great Western Primary School

Newsletter 3
February 18th 2021
Principal: Kerri-Ann Harris

Dear Parents, Family and Friend

COVID UPDATE

Welcome back again.
Parents are welcome at school. We do ask that you abide by the following:

- Masks are to be worn inside buildings by all visitors over the age of 12 Years
- If on the premises for longer than 15 minutes all visitors must sign the Visitor Register
- Please socially distance when on the school premises and when picking up students before and after school, if you can't socially distance wear a mask.

Unwell students - DET

One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

What you need to know:

1***. If a child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they must stay at home. If a child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school/early childhood education and care (ECEC) as soon as possible.***

2. If a child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) outlined below, however mild, they should get tested and they must remain at home until they receive their results:

• fever
• chills or sweats
• cough
• sore throat
• shortness of breath
• runny nose
• loss of sense of smell or taste.

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered symptoms.
For further advice:
• call the 24-hour coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline 1800 675 398
• call a general practitioner
• use the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) online self-assessment tool. Visit: Where to get tested.

3***. A child must stay at home until they are symptom free, even if their coronavirus (COVID-19) test is negative*** If a person has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or been identified as a close contact they must isolate/quarantine until they receive clearance from DHHS.

Children with persistent symptoms due to underlying conditions such as hay fever or asthma whose symptoms are clearly typical of their condition can continue to attend ECEC/school. They should be tested for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms that are different to, or worse than, their usual symptoms. They should consider getting a medical certificate from their GP to attend ECEC/school if they have persistent symptoms that may overlap with symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or runny nose. Younger children (pre-school up to Grade 2) may have prolonged post viral symptoms such as a runny nose or cough and may return to school/ ECEC following a negative COVID-19 test even if they are not completely free of symptoms. They will need a medical certificate from their GP to confirm they are otherwise well or have recovered from their acute illness. For information on the minimum periods students and children need to stay at home for other conditions, refer to the DHHS school exclusion table.

4. ***Children do NOT need a medical certificate before returning to school/ECEC***. Once symptoms have cleared, there is no requirement from the Department of Education and Training or DHHS for children/students to have a medical certificate before they return to school/ECEC.

Thank you for your support in following these steps, together we can all stay safe.

2021 Fees

Thank you to all the families who have already paid their contributions. For those who still need to, these contributions can be paid via cash or B Pay. The fees are set at $230 per child. These fees cover your child's books/pencils and various class materials along with curriculum based excursions, their Kitchen Garden program and the swim program. Excursions outside the curriculum, and camps, will be charged separately.

Email: great.western.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website: www.greatwestern.ps.vic.gov.au
Phone: 03 5356 2235 Mobile: 0458 562 235

Cluster Cross Country

This year's Cluster Cross Country will take place on Friday, March 26th at Halls Gap Primary School. Students will be transported by bus to the Cross Country at Halls Gap.

Parents and family are also more than welcome to attend.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Maths Olympics

Our Year 5/6 students will attend their first transition session at Stawell Secondary College on March 24th. Students will participate in a Maths Olympics at the College. The activity provides an opportunity to use the school bus to get to and from school, find their way around a big school, use the canteen and meet and mix with staff and students. All students in Year 5/6 are expected to attend this activity. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Camps, Sports and Excursion Funding

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. Please see eligibility criteria below. Application forms are available from the office. For audit reasons we require a copy of your concession card.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must: on the first day of Term one, or Term two

- Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an
- eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, or
- b) Be a temporary foster parent, and
- c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Breakfast Program

Our Breakfast Program will be available from 8.30am - 8.45am each Thursday morning.

Toast, cereal, baked beans and fruit will be on offer. All students and family members are most welcome to join us for breakfast.

Absences, Late Arrivals and Early Departures

A reminder, 'It's not okay to be away!' If your child is absent from school, arriving late or leaving early, we ask that you please send a text message to the ***school mobile*** prior to 9:30am. We are required by DET to follow up unexplained absences after 9.30am. A text provides us with the written parental consent for an absence.

Conveyance Allowance

Conveyance allowance is available to families who live more than 4.8km from their nearest school please see below for eligibility criteria. If you feel you are eligible please collect an application from the office.

Eligibility

An application on behalf of a student may be submitted if the student is:

•a Victorian resident;

•school aged and enrolled (3) three or more days per week at a school; and

•attend their nearest or designated neighbourhood government school appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, or reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the campus attended.

Cheers

Kerri-Ann

Labour Day

Monday 8th March

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Enjoy your long weekend.

2021 ENROLMENTS
NOT TOO LATE

If you, or know anyone you know would like to enrol their child for 2021 please contact the school on 03 5356 2235 or 0458 562 235 for a tour and information package.

FEBUARY BIRTHDAYS
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
RJ
We hope you have a great day

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School Sports –

Friday 19th March (Covid depending)

This year's Cluster Sports will be hosted by Concongella PS at North Park, Stawell.
Students need to be at the ground by 8:40am with the day concluding about 3:00pm.
Students will need to make their own way to and from the sports.
Students are required to be in full school uniform at the start of the day for the marching.

- Black track pants
- Black polo with white logo
- School rugby jumper or black polar fleece jumper
- White socks
- Black school shoes
- Hair accessories are in school colours.

After the judging of the marching is completed students will have time to *change into black shorts and runners* to compete in the sporting events.
In the event of bad weather, families will be notified by the school of the need to cancel the sports.
They will be notified from 7.30am onwards. If this does happen, students will be expected to come to school as normal. This day is a fantastic day with parents, family and friends attending to cheer along our students.
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.
If you are able to help with marshalling an age group to each event please contact Kerri-Ann.

Read to Self

Read to Someone

Each Tuesday – Thursday for 30 minutes all students take part in a joint Read to Self, Read to Someone session. The students all read, read to someone or to a teacher. This is a great time for the students to share and model reading.

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3 Prep Rest day	4 MARC Van	5 Swim Program
8	9	10 Prep Rest day	11 LOTE	12 Swim Program
15	16	17 Prep Rest day	18 MARC Van Book Club Due	19 Swim Program
22 School Council meeting	23	24 Prep Rest day	25 LOTE	26 Swim Program

March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3 Prep Rest day	4 MARC Van	5 Swim Program
8 Labour day PUBLIC HOLIDAY	9	10 Prep Students attend School	11 LOTE	12
15 School Council AGM	16	17	18 MARC Van	19 School Sports
22	23	24	25 LOTE	26 Cross Country Halls Gap

Great Western Primary School is committed to child safety (Ministerial Order No. 870) and takes all reasonable steps to ensure that the safety of our students is paramount

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