



COVID-19 Update – Home Learning Extended

Dear Parents and Carers

Today, you will have heard that the NSW Government has extended the lockdown for Greater Sydney, until at least Friday 30 July 2021. This includes the extension of home learning for all schools in the Greater Sydney area, including Wollongong.

While this is clearly disappointing for us all, I'm sure for many it comes as no surprise, with new cases continuing to be at high levels, each day. Let's hope that the additional two weeks will go a long way to getting this situation under control and seeing life in our area return to some form of normality.

While our school remains open, I want to reinforce the message of the Premier and NSW Department of Education – students should stay at home wherever possible. We acknowledge that many businesses remain open and families must work. For those families, we remain open and will provide the best possible care and supervision to assist you in balancing work and the complexities of this situation.

However, for those families that do not need to send their children to school, please follow the recommendations that are in place for everyone's safety and keep your children at home. One of the priorities the school has been tasked with is to ensure minimal staff on site each day. This is not possible if student numbers are high and creates an additional risk for students, families and staff that may be avoidable.

Having said that, I also acknowledge that every family's situation is different and should you wish to discuss your family's personal circumstances, this is welcomed. I have already had many conversations with families where we have worked to come up with solutions to each unique family situation. Please feel free to contact the school on woonona-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or via phone on 4284 4316 should this be the case.

We appreciate that this extension will be very confronting for many of our families as you look at this way of learning being extended beyond the initial time-frame. Having said that, we want you to know that we are here to support. The first few days of anything new is always going to be difficult and come with increased complexities. We are optimistic that as time proceeds, families will become more adjusted to the daily routine and each day will become easier, less stressful and more productive. If this is not the case with your family, please make sure that you reach out to us and we will look at what we can do together. Attached with this message, are some helpful resources for families, including a social story about COVID-19, a story about coping with

uncertainty caused by COVID-19 and a lovely resource families can use during this time. I encourage you to take the time to look at these with your children.

We are already very impressed by the high number of students who have been engaging with their online learning, engaging with their teacher and classmates and working through the work that has been provided. I want to acknowledge that this achievement is a wonderful reflection on the quality of the work provided by our staff, the commitment of our parents to support the online learning and of course to our students who are displaying our learner qualities in completing the programs that have been set by their teachers.

It certainly has been a challenging time, with no doubt many more challenges to come. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support as we work through a fast-moving world of change. Most importantly during this time, I encourage you to look after those that are most important, including yourselves. There is a long road ahead and maintaining a focus on health and wellbeing at a time like this, will see us come through this stronger both collectively and individually.

Take care and please do not hesitate to contact the school, should you need our support.

Tim Fisher
Principal