



# Heights Happenings

30 January 2020

No. 01

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## 2020 Diary

### January

- Fri 31 • All Preps - Full day  
• Prep Parents  
Morning Tea 9am

### February

- Fri 7 • LT2 Hockey Clinic  
Fri 14 • LT4 Interschool  
Sport  
Mon 17 • District Swimming  
Fri 21 • LT4 Interschool  
Sport

### Tue 25 • Pupil Free Day

### March

- Fri 6 • LT4 Interschool  
Sport  
Mon 9 • Labour Day Holiday  
Fri 13 • LT4 Interschool  
Sport  
Tues 24 • Cross Country  
Whole School  
Fri 27 • Last Day Term 1  
2.30pm Dismissal

## Welcome Back

Welcome back for the 2020 school year. I hope that you all had a fabulous holiday break and were able to spend quality time with family and friends. We have had a terrific start to the New Year welcoming 280 children.

I would like to extend a very special welcome to the many new students and families who have begun their Primary School journey with us here at Ringwood Heights Primary School.

Our new Prep students will have commenced school either yesterday or today and we will expect them at our first assembly on Monday.

Along with our new students and families we also welcomed two new staff members: Ms Georgia Schumann joins LT2 and Ms Eliza Wood joins LT3.

It seems that everyone has returned refreshed, excited, and looking forward to a very big year of learning.

Thank you to our wonderful community for your support and vigilance over the holiday break. Also huge thanks to the McGinty and Lewis families for keeping our gardens well watered!

## Coronavirus

I continue to receive advice on a daily basis regarding instructions for families and schools in managing the current concerns around the Coronavirus.

New advice arrived overnight and it is based on the latest expert recommendations of the Commonwealth's Chief Medical Officer and Victoria's Chief Health Officer. I have attached a factsheet for families especially for those families who have travelled to China over the break. We will continue to follow advice as it comes to hand and keep the community updated through Flexibuzz.

Thank you for your cooperation in implementing these recommendations.

“Getting to know you Chats” will be offered during the week of February 17. The online booking information and process will be distributed via Flexibuzz soon to allow you to make appointments with your child's teacher. These scheduled 10 minute chats are offered for parents of children who are new to a particular teacher, or who would like to touch base with their child's teacher to update or provide information that will support their learning. The information may include their interests, special qualities, learning style, medical concerns or other general information that will support the teacher in getting to know your child. These chats are not to answer questions regarding the class program – this is covered at the Parent Information Sessions in Week 5 ( Feb 24-28)

Our **Parent Information sessions** this year will again focus on communicating with parents the expectations we have of students at each particular Learning Level, the ways you can help your child at home, and they will outline any new or emerging

curriculum initiatives. The specific dates for these evenings will be advised via Flexibuzz and a note home.

### School Policies

Two policies recently added to our website include the new Mobile Phone policy and a link to the Department’s Privacy policy. These are located with our other school policies under the “ABOUT” tab. Feel free to take a look.

### Pupil Free Day

A reminder that a Pupil Free Day was approved by School Council for Tuesday February 25. On this day staff will be looking closely out our school achievement data – particularly for Numeracy as we work towards our School Review scheduled for Term 3.

### Staffing 2020 Team Leaders

Specialists	Vicki Cunningham
Prep	Emma Pengelly
Year 1 & 2	Stephanie Caccioppoli
Year 3 & 4	Katherine Butcher
Year 5 & 6	Jess Morgan

### 2020 Staff

<b>Specialists</b>	
Performing Arts	Vicki Cunningham
LOTE	TBC
Library	Karen Trease
Visual Arts	Zena Goodman
PE/Sport	Amanda Dean

### Classroom Teachers

#### Learning Team 1

Mrs Emma Pengelly	Prep P
Mr James Lumsden	Prep L

#### Learning Team 2

Mrs Stephanie Caccioppoli	2S
Mrs Hayley Davison	2DC
Mrs Alex Clark	2DC
Ms Samantha Cadman	2C
Ms Georgia Schumann	2G

#### Learning Team 3

Ms Katherine Butcher	3B
Mrs Jude Ridley	3R
Ms Eliza Wood	3W

#### Learning Team 4

Ms Jessica Morgan	4M
Mr Robert Bennett	4B
Mrs Donna Ramage	4RD
Mr Ken Darby	4RD

### Integration Aides

Mary Clarke  
Josh Gibney  
Cory van der Jagt

### Office Staff

Kay Gardner  
Michelle Stringer  
Leanne Smart

### Communication : Flexibuzz and Newsletter

Ringwood Heights PS uses the Flexibuzz App as the main form of communication.



**There is a requirement for schools under Student Attendance to contact parents/guardians as soon as practicable on the day of a student’s absence.** With this in mind, we request that you send a Flexibuzz notification if your child will not be at school. If you are aware of an upcoming absence including holidays that are taken during the school term, this can be entered in advance or early on the day of the absence. We strongly urge families to use Flexibuzz rather than telephoning the school for absences.

A friendly reminder to returning families - please update your child’s year level on Flexibuzz to make sure you receive the correct information relevant to your current year level.

If you haven’t already downloaded the App, can we please request that you do so as soon as possible? You are able to find Flexibuzz in the App store (iTunes or Play Store) or at [flexibuzz.com.au](http://flexibuzz.com.au). Please check you have your settings to allow notification. It is an easy process to download the App onto your phone or any other internet device. This will be our way to communicate with families and keep you informed of any changes or updates that you will need to be notified about; eg: camp arrivals, cancellation of interschool school sport, newsletter, or enrolling into extracurricular events to name a few.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring communication continues to be effective.

The **newsletter** is compiled fortnightly on a Thursday and then posted to Flexibuzz and will contain regular features such as News from the Principal, Parents Club and OSHClub.

If at any stage information is missing from Flexibuzz please alert the office staff who will very happily ensure that information is always as up to date as possible.



## Assembly

School assemblies on Monday morning aim to gather students, staff, parents and other members of the community so that we can present awards, showcase talents or welcome guest presenters and celebrate significant community events together.

Our School Captains assist the Principal to run assembly as part of their leadership role. I hope you can find some time throughout the year to join us.

Our first assembly will be held on  
**Monday February 3.**

We'd love to see you there!

**Kim Bride  
Principal**

## Message from the Business Manager

A few reminders for the start of the school year for families.

If you have any changes to your contact details (mobile number, work number or address), please notify the office as soon as possible. Also update any emergency contact person details as well.

If you're late to school, students need to come via the office to be signed in using the iPad.

If any student needs to take any medication, a completed medication form (held at the office) is required and the medication is to be stored at the office (this includes Ventolin).

Student absences can be completed using the Flexibuzz App.

## The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Attached to the newsletter this week is information regarding the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF). CSEF gives financial assistance for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

The application form can be collected from the school office or downloaded from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef). We require application forms to be completed and lodged with school by before the end of Term 1.

## Parents' Club

### Welcome Back

Parents club would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school for 2020 and a huge welcome to all our new families. We hope you all had an enjoyable break.

## Bunning BBQ Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

As posted on Flexibuzz yesterday we are having our annual Bunning BBQ on Saturday February 22<sup>nd</sup> and we would love as much help as we could get.

We will be sending cake packs home over the coming week so if you could please put your baking caps on we would love to get as many cakes as we can to sell at the cake stall.

If you haven't already done so could you please log on via Flexibuzz and sign up, or alternatively contact myself; details below. We really need your help.

### How To Contact Parents' Club

Join our Facebook group for regular reminders of upcoming events and fundraising activities:

[https://](https://www.facebook.com/RingwoodHeightsPrimarySchool/)

[www.facebook.com/RingwoodHeightsPrimarySchool/](https://www.facebook.com/RingwoodHeightsPrimarySchool/)

Call Bec Evans, President on 0438 776 548 or

email: [becstruan@bigpond.com](mailto:becstruan@bigpond.com)

or leave a message at the office.

## Commonwealth Bank School Banking day is Wednesday.



Remember, Wednesday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit.

For every deposit made at school, students will receive a silver Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward

item in recognition of their regular savings habits.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives a Regular Savers Contribution of \$5 for every 10 deposits processed per student as well as an Annual Contribution which is based on the number of students who made at least one School Banking deposit in the prior year.

If your child has lost their book, they can bring their money to school in a sealed envelope with a note on the next School Banking day. We will issue them with a replacement.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at Ringwood Heights PS. We would also like to thank the wonderful parents who volunteer as our School Banking Co-ordinators and process our banking every week.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2020 School Banking program information pack from the school office or visit [commbank.com.au/schoolbanking](http://commbank.com.au/schoolbanking)

# Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

## Factsheet for school students and children

### Last updated 29 January 2020

An outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was detected in Wuhan, China in late December 2019. Cases have been reported predominantly in the city of Wuhan, in the Hubei province of China, as well as some other Chinese cities and countries, including two confirmed cases in Victoria, Australia.

### What is this virus?

Coronaviruses can make humans and animals sick. Some coronaviruses can cause illness similar to the common cold and others can cause more serious diseases, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

The virus seen in Hubei Province, China is called 'novel' because it is new. It has not been detected before this outbreak. Most people infected live in, or travelled to, Hubei Province, China. There have been cases of 2019-nCoV reported in other Chinese provinces and other countries. It is likely that the virus originally came from an animal, and there is now evidence that it can spread from person-to-person.

### What are the symptoms?

Symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath. Symptoms can take up to 14 days to develop.

### What if my child is well, and returning to school after being in Hubei province, China or other countries with cases in the last 14 days?

**All students and staff members who have travelled to Hubei Province, China, are advised to stay at home and avoid public settings, including attendance at schools and early learning centres, until 14 days after last being in Hubei province, China.**

Children and staff who are well and have travelled to other provinces in China, or any other areas where there have been reported cases, are NOT recommended to be excluded from schools and child care services unless the following applies:

- The person is a confirmed case of novel coronavirus
- The person is a close contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days

### What if my child feels sick now or within 14 days of being in Hubei Province, China or another part of China?

- If your child has a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, they must be excluded from school and be reviewed by a doctor.
- Seek medical attention but first place a mask on the student if you have one and call the doctor or hospital before you attend. Tell them your child has been in Hubei province, China, or the location of travel within China.
- When you get to the hospital or doctor's clinic, tell them where your child has travelled in China and whether this included Hubei Province. Ensure a mask is placed on your child before or as soon as you arrive at the medical facility.

If your child has severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath:

- Call 000 and request an ambulance, and
- Inform the paramedics where your child has been in China.

## How can I help prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV?

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence. The most important actions are:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow

## Where can I get more information?

For Victorian updates to the current incident, go to: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>

For national updates: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/latest-information-about-novel-coronavirus>

For international updates: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

WHO resources <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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