



Wheeler Heights Public School

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UPDATE #1 – FRIDAY 9 JULY 2021 **TERM 3, WEEK 1, 2021 – OPERATIONAL CHANGES**

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As advised previously, last week the Department of Education confirmed that for the first week of Term 3, students in Greater Sydney will be learning from home. This will stay in place until Friday 16 July.

The Department together with NSW Health have developed a framework for COVID-19 response settings for school. There are 4 levels. Schools in Greater Sydney are currently operating on Level 4. This means:

- Students are learning from home but schools are open for students and their families who need it.
- Masks are mandatory for all staff whilst working indoors, including classrooms.
- Non-essential visitors are not allowed to enter school sites.
- Schools will, where possible, introduce procedures to reduce mingling between students and year cohorts.
- All non-core curriculum activities will cease.
- Canteen and uniform shop will not be operational.

Further information is available on the Department site: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

While our school is open, **we encourage you to keep your child at home if possible**. There will only be minimal staff supervision. To assist us with staffing, if you are intending to send your child/children to school next week, could you please complete this [Google form](#), indicating which days you will be sending your child/children. Please note, you **only** need to complete this form if you **are sending** your child/children to school next week.

Students should not attend school if unwell, even with mild symptoms of COVID-19. Any person with any COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and should not return to school until they have received a negative test result and are symptom free.

In circumstances where children have other medical reason for recurrent symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.

Visitors on site

Non-essential visitors are not permitted on school sites. Please see details below regarding drop off and pick up arrangements. All entry to WHPS will be through Veterans Parade only. Berith St and Rose Ave gates will be locked. If you are required to enter the school you must sign in with the QR code located on the school gates and phone the office. Please do not enter the school grounds until instructed to do so.

Drop off Arrangements

At this stage, we will be having all **DROP OFFs** in the morning from the Veterans Parade entrance. From 8.45am a member of staff will meet any parents at the school car park crossing entry gate and escort the children to the assembly area. Due to social distancing protocols, parents should then depart the school. Where possible and if safe to do so, if arriving by car, please do not exit your vehicle but allow your child/children to exit the car on their own.

Pick Up Arrangements

Each day students will be brought to Veterans Parade for collection. Once you have collected your child please leave quickly.

Please be sure to practise Social Distancing and do not congregate and delay at the front of the school.

Please be sure to read the Noticeboard at the entrance area with more specific details each day as required.

OOSH Arrangements

OOSH is only available for essential workers. Any students attending must also be attending or have attended school on that day. Parents may take children directly to OOSH each morning and collect children directly from OOSH each evening. There are separate sign in/out arrangements for OOSH, please see the communication which they have sent out to their families.

Absences

The school has a duty of care to all students and as always, the school needs to know whether your child is at home or at school. Please notify the school of any absences by email or FlexiSchools. One notification for the whole week is acceptable. You only need to inform us if your child is **not** engaging with the learning from home, i.e. they are unwell or are not learning from home for a particular reason. When students logon to their Google Classroom, there will be a section to for them to mark their attendance each day.

School Operations

There will be a few specific variations at WHPS that you will need to be aware of for this week.

- Canteen is closed
- Uniform shop is closed
- Gymnastics (Kindy and Year 1) is postponed
- Ballroom dancing (Year 5) is postponed
- Special Religious Education has been cancelled
- PSSA has been cancelled
- All assemblies have been cancelled
- Reading group parent helpers have been cancelled
- After school classes (Chess, Science Club, Language classes, Keyboard etc) have been cancelled
- Band has been cancelled

On Monday 12 July, we will send a separate email regarding the Learning from home arrangements. The learning will be accessed through Google Classrooms, which students can access through their DoE student portal. If you have difficulties accessing technology, please email the school as soon as possible so that we can assist.

As always, please ONLY contact staff by emailing wheelerhts-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au We will continue to share information with you as we receive it from the Department of Education. Thank you for your understanding, flexibility and support of our teachers who continue to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to delivering learning for your child as they tackle unprecedented challenges.

Yours sincerely

Simone Rizzuto
Principal

Priscilla Wright
Assistant Principal