

LEURA PUBLIC SCHOOL
Cnr Mount Hay Rd and Willow Park Ave
Leura, 2780
ph : 4784 1251 fax : 4784 3156
email : leura-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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Covid Restrictions Term 1 2021 – Department of Education

Dear Parents and Carers,

20.01.2021

Happy New Year! There is just over a week to go until the end of the school summer holidays. I hope you are all having a safe, restful and wonderful time with your children these holidays. I have had a wonderful time with my family and friends visiting Dubbo Zoo, Tweed Heads and Kiama. We live in such a beautiful country and I am grateful to be able to access and enjoy some of our most amazing natural environments.

In preparation for the new school year, I promised to keep you updated about the most recent Covid restrictions. I have included below the most recent advice from the Department of Education which relates to attendance, wearing face masks and visiting the school site. The direct link to this information is <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families?deliveryName=DM7552> .

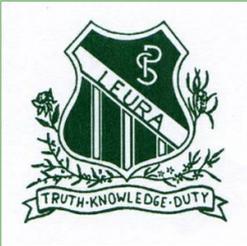
Important Information for the first day of school

On the first day of school for Term 1, parents and carers of students who are in Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2, may enter the school grounds to drop off their children to their new classes provided they are following the expected hygiene measures and physical distancing requirements by the Department of Health NSW. I have included the information relating to face masks in this note below.

Permission for parents and carers to enter the school and drop off their children is for the first day of school only. Students in Year 1 and 2 return **Friday 29th January 2021**. Kindergarten students have their first day on Tuesday 2nd February 2021. **All visitors must sign in at the office and complete a Covid form prior to entering the rest of the school.** Please ensure that you have given yourself enough time to complete this process on the morning of your child's first day.

The morning of Friday the 29th January, students in Years 1-6 will **assemble in the COLA in their lines from 2020 when the morning bell rings at 9:15am**. Once students are assembled, they will be allocated to their new classes and then parents of students who are in Year, 1 and 2 will be able to walk their child to their new classroom, say goodbye there, and then return to the office to sign out. **A separate note will be distributed to Kindergarten families outlining Best Start and the first day procedures for Kindergarten 2021.**

In the afternoon, teachers will dismiss their classes and parents and carers will need to pick up their child from **outside the school fence as per the 2020 guidelines**. Please note that our procedures for entering the school grounds during the school day have not changed since Term 4 and remain the same as 2020. **If parents need to enter the school grounds during the school day, they must ring the office.** Our school leaders will be locking the school gates in the morning and



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unlocking the school gates during the afternoon. A list of reasons for parents entering the school grounds has been provided by the Department of Education and included below.

Volunteers

P&C meetings may occur on school site after school hours and our volunteers who assist our amazing P&C are able to come on site to operate the school canteen and uniform shop. All volunteers who are committed to helping our school in these spaces, will need to follow the same procedures from 2020 and fill out a Covid form on each visit. All volunteers must also have completed the relevant Working With Children forms.

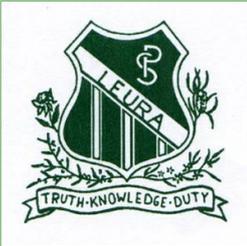
Additionally, we are committed to providing our families with more detail regarding volunteering for specific curriculum support such as literacy/numeracy groups and the kitchen garden program. We request that parents and carers wait for further advice from our school in the coming weeks as we need time to prepare and organise for this change in procedure. We must ensure that Leura Public School is compliant with Covid regulations, Work Health and Safety and Child Protection induction procedures at all times. The safety, wellbeing and health of our students, staff and community is always our priority.

Our partnership and engagement with our families and community is vital. It is important that we work together to provide our students with an educational setting that supports a strong partnership with our families, as this will enable our students to thrive. We thank our families in advance for being understanding and supportive of our school decisions in such challenging times and difficult circumstances. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

On behalf of all staff at Leura, I look forward to welcoming our students for the 2021 school year.

Warm regards,

May Ptolemy
Principal



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School activities and school site usage

What's changed

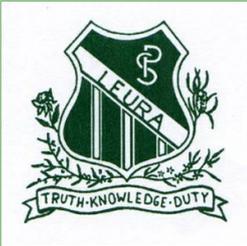
The following activities have been updated:

- Schools can now turn on water fountains and bubblers for students to use.
- Schools in the border regions can recommence swimming and other activities using venues in other states or territories if border requirements permit.
- P&C meetings can continue.
- Field trips, excursions and camps to VIC, QLD and ACT can continue where interstate border requirements permit.
- Orientation programs for department Preschools, Kindergarten and Year 7 can continue.

Continue reading for further information.

The following activities can continue

- NSW Health advised that communal water fountains and/or bubblers in NSW schools can now be turned on. These facilities can remain operational, closing only if there is transmission of COVID-19 in the community. Students are still encouraged to bring water bottles from home that they can refill when needed.
- Field trips, excursions and camps to Victoria, Queensland and ACT can continue where interstate border requirements permit.
- Department Preschool, Kindergarten and Year 7 orientations can continue.
- Parents and carers for Preschool, Kindergarten and Years 1, 2 and 7 students will be allowed on the school site on orientation days to drop off their children at their classes provided they follow physical distancing and hygiene measures implemented by the school and the department.
- Schools in the border regions can recommence swimming and other activities using venues in other states or territories if border requirements permit. Schools will need to:



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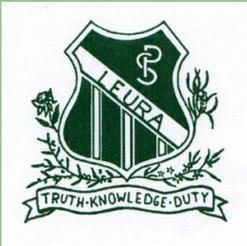
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- Have a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place in addition to a risk management plan.
- Keep records of students and staff attending the activities.
- Practicums for both teaching and non-teaching students including university supervisors.
- Undergraduate education researchers with a COVID-19 Safety Plan from the university representative.
- P&C meetings and other school based outdoor activities that involve parents and members of the community, such as working bees may occur on the school sites with executives and invited guests. These meetings must occur outside of school hours and are limited to 30 people outdoors for schools within Greater Sydney, including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong are subject to the 4 square metre rule. Other locations can have a maximum of 100 people outdoors subject to the 2 square metre rule. Physical distancing and hygiene measures must be adhered to at all times. All attendees must sign the visitor acknowledgement form upon arrival.
- Singing events can continue. Up to 5 performers can sing indoors and there is no limit on the number of performers singing outdoors.
 - If the event is held indoors, audience members must not participate in singing or chanting.
 - If the event is held outdoors, the audience may participate in singing with those over the age of 12 required to wear a mask. Schools must comply with these restrictions in addition to the department's school and community activity guidelines. All singing, chanting, rapping and group activities must take place in large, well-ventilated settings. Outdoor settings are preferred.
 - During solo and group singing, chanting and rapping events, singers must maintain a distance of 5 metres between themselves and any person they are facing, including staff, students and audience members.
 - All singers are to be positioned 1.5 metres apart from one another. This includes choirs.
 - Instructors, teachers and adult support persons must maintain a distance of 1.5 metres on the side of the performers and not within 5 metres in front of them during the rehearsals and performance.
- In a primary school and preschool setting, in-class educational activities such as group repetition, chanting, recitation, or singing activities are permitted provided these activities take place outdoors or in large, well-ventilated settings.

School attendance



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Students should be at school unless:

- they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition and the expected timeframe
- they are currently unwell.

In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded **NOT** to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms.

NSW Health has requested that schools encourage anyone who is unwell or has even mild flu-like symptoms, to arrange to be tested through their local medical practitioner or one of the COVID-19 clinics.

Students and staff with flu-like symptoms will need to be tested and provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result and be symptom-free before being permitted to return to school.

Students who do not undertake a COVID-19 test will not be permitted to return to school for a 10-day period. Additionally, they must be symptom-free for at least 3 days prior to returning to school.

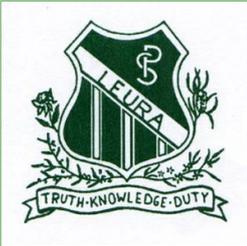
Students who have seasonal allergic rhinitis or another condition that presents similarly to flu-like symptoms are still required to get tested for COVID-19 and return a negative test result. Where their symptoms continue beyond 10 days, students should provide documentation from their GP confirming their symptoms are typical for their condition. If the student develops new or changed symptoms, they should get tested for COVID-19. Find more information about COVID-19 symptoms.

COVID-19 testing for students with complex health or disability may be challenging. In these situations, schools will ask the parent or carer to have their child assessed by their medical practitioner. Where a medical practitioner determines that a COVID-19 test is not required, documentation must be provided to the school to confirm that the student does not have symptoms that warrant a COVID-19 test. The certificate must also indicate that the student is able to return to school.

All schools will be vigilant when implementing infection control, physical distancing and personal hygiene protocols to protect the health and safety of students and staff. Schools will promote the need to follow good hygiene practices such as:

- regularly washing hands.
- avoiding sharing drinks or food.
- coughing or sneezing into your elbow, or a tissue which should be discarded immediately.

Students will be supported to learn from home in the following circumstances:



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- If they are required to self-isolate due to being a close contact of a positive or suspected COVID-19 case.
- Where the school is directed under public health advice to only remain operational for children of essential workers if an outbreak of COVID-19 was to arise in the local area.

Wearing face masks and temperature screening

Staff and students are not required to wear a face mask while at school. Anyone who wishes to wear their own masks in schools will not be prevented from doing so.

Students over the age of 12 and staff must comply with the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings\) Order 2021](#) when travelling to and from school and during school excursions by public transport, or by chartered/private transport services. This applies to staff and students who reside or travel to and from Greater Sydney (including the Blue Mountains), Central Coast and Wollongong.

Wearing a face mask is not mandatory for parents and carers visiting schools, provided they are visiting only for the explicit reasons within this advice and maintain physical distancing and hygiene practices while at school. Widespread temperature screening is not required or recommended in schools.