



BALD HILLS STATE SCHOOL

2156 Gympie Road, BALD HILLS
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16 March 2020

COVID-19 A Special Message from the Principal for Parents and Caregivers

Dear Parents & Caregivers

I am writing to further update you on the changing situation in response to COVID-19.

The following are school measures that have been put in place at Bald Hills State School:

Area	Strategy	Status
Events	The following school events or activities are Cancelled : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nudgee Beach Excursions – Prep • Year 1 Australia Zoo • Year 3 Travena Glen • Year 4 Kumbartcho • Year 5 Museum • Aspley Eagles Cup • Interschool Sport • Assemblies • Easter Parade • Breakfast Club • Chappy Disco • Parent Teacher Interviews • Rainbow Room Café • SEP Case Meetings • Reading Dogs • Choir • Band • Ensemble • Rainbow Room Lunchtime • Computer Lab • Lunchtime Clubs - Auslan 	Cancelled
	Review running of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Country • Tall Tree Celebrations 	To be Reviewed
School Routines	School Arrival Parents are asked to drop students off no earlier than 8.40am Parents are asked not to congregate around the school at drop off or at pick up times All school playground equipment is closed.	Currently Implemented
Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No classroom volunteers/visitors 	Currently Implemented
First Aid Room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloves and masks worn by staff • Cleaning and disinfecting area after each break 	Currently Implemented
Classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students sit at their own desk or in own space • Teachers to move for Targeted Teaching not students 	Currently Implemented





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	<p>Restricted use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer keyboards, Ipads – regular cleaning • Quad and oval equip resources put away • Sports equipment minimised or removed • Shared Music equip minimised or removed 	Currently Implemented
	<p>Student Hygiene Lessons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hygiene – washing hands • Covering Face when sneezing and coughing – cleaning • Social Distancing • Restricted Touching with others • Restricted Touching of own face 	Currently Implemented
Classroom Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desks wiped down during first and second break • Desks separated as best as possible in classroom. • Students to wash hands before entering classrooms at the start of each session. • Any child that coughs or sneezes to immediately clean hands. • No shared hats. • No sharing resources – pencils, rubbers etc. • No sharing food 	Currently Implemented
Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checked after each lunch break to ensure they are stocked with soap, toilet paper, paper towels. • Toilets sprayed with disinfectant at the end of each lunch break. 	Currently Implemented
Drinking Taps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking taps wiped down and disinfected at the end of each lunch break. 	Currently Implemented
Student / Staff Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold/Flu symptoms students and staff to stay home. • Students/ staff sent home who present with cold / flu symptoms. • Students/ staff stay home who have a link to family member who needs to self isolate. 	Currently Implemented
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily updates for parents and Staff – email, SMS 	Currently Implemented

Please continue to reference updated COVID-19 information on the [Queensland Health](#) or [Australian Government](#) websites. These sites are being progressively updated and it is important to continue to stay in touch with the latest information.

The following are measures that have been put in place at Bald Hills State School by the Queensland Government.

Mass Gatherings

As you would be aware, the Australian Government has announced that all organised, **non-essential mass gatherings attended by more than 500 people** must be cancelled from Monday 16 March 2020.

While the announcement was very clear this does not apply to schools, and that there is no need for mass school closures, it does include activities such as school fetes, fairs, concerts and the like where they involve more than 500 people.





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Our school is in the process of reviewing our forward activity schedule and will postpone our participation in any activities that meet this criteria until further notice.

As our response to COVID-19 is all about containment, I continue to ask all families to pay extra attention to health and hygiene measures employed at home with your children, particularly the use of soap and, if soap is not available, hand sanitiser. You can be assured we are reinforcing this message at school.

These directions are all about supporting a national effort to contain and slow the spread of COVID-19. Each one of us, and our school, play a vital role in this effort and I ask for your continued support in this containment effort. Students must not attend school if they are unwell.

International Travel

I also draw your attention to the Australian Government's announcement that all people arriving in Australia must now self-isolate for 14 days on their arrival back to Australia. The Department of Education banned all staff and student international school travel last week – this ban now also includes any travel to New Zealand.

Continuity of Teaching and Learning

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, our school continues to prepare for continuity of learning and teaching.

The Department of Education has many resources available to us and our teachers will seek to minimise any disruption to student learning should our school be impacted by the virus.

Ongoing Planning

As we have already seen across the world, this situation is likely to continue for some time and is evolving. As such, as a school and as a community, we must all prepare over the short, medium and long term.

I ask that you continue to take all necessary local actions to support your child's, and the school's, health and hygiene and act in a protective and preventative manner to help limit the spread of coronavirus.

I will continue to provide communication as Australia's response to COVID-19 evolves. Thank you for your vigilance in helping us manage this public health issue.

Regards

Glen Robertson

Principal

