

Newsletter to Parents

BRANXTON PUBLIC SCHOOL



Find us at: 12 King St, Branxton NSW 2335
 Phone: (02) 4938 1214 Fax: (02) 4938 1905

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Week 8 Term 1

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH, 2020

Dates to Remember

20-21.8.20	Stage 2 Sydney Excursion
26-28.10.20	Stage 3 Bathurst Excursion

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

As we enter week 8, we begin to enjoy some glorious autumn weather. However, this is being overshadowed by the current unprecedented climate of uncertainty around hygiene and staying well. I would like to reassure you all that at Branxton Public School we are doing everything possible to ensure the safety on site of our students, staff, parents and visitors. There are a large number of cancellations and postponements to comply with NSW Health and NSW DoE Guidelines at this time, but we also want to maintain school routines and traditions. Therefore, we have been thinking 'outside of the box' to develop ways to continue our long-honoured traditions while meeting all safety and wellbeing requirements.

We also want to keep routines as normal as possible for everyone to maintain a positive sense of wellbeing in our school environment, therefore:

We have much to celebrate at Branxton Public School and each and every day our students are

undertaking teaching and learning activities that will prepare them for their future and ensure they have every opportunity to reach their Personal Best. Our Kindergarten students are doing so well with their phonics program, their sight words and their blending – their reading is coming along in leaps and bounds and I know their teachers are very proud of their efforts.

Likewise, our Stage 1 students are doing well in Literacy activities and there has been some great growth in Spelling, Reading and Writing. An area where I have been really impressed with Stage 1 students is their positive play interactions and use of polite talk and good manners. This has been pleasing to see both in classrooms and the playground.

Our Stage 2 and 3 students have been producing some high-quality writing and this area in particular has been a focus for our school and the results are outstanding. Stage 2 have also shown their ability to interpret texts and show deeper understanding of author's purpose in shared reading opportunities in class. While Stage 3 have been doing some brilliant work in Maths. They will be participating in a variety of opportunities in coming weeks and terms, including a Maths Olympiad. We have some very talented Mathematicians in our school who show their positive work habits, resilience and persistence daily to solve mathematical algorithms and problems.

SCHOOL TIMES

Class Time	9:10	- 11:10
Lunch	11:10	- 11:55
Class Time	11:55	- 1:25
Recess	1:25	- 1:55
Class Time	1:55	- 3:10

Office Hours:

The office is open from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm.

I have had regular student visitors to my office sharing their work and achievements and to see the delight on the faces of students as they share has been both a privilege and inspirational.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we are currently preparing and organising our school systems and students to undertake the NAPALAN Assessment in Term 2. Once again this will be an online testing structure for Branxton Public School. Information for Year 3 and 5 parents was sent home last week and if you have any questions please contact the school. All these data sources along with our school-based data are important sources of evidence and information to inform our teaching and learning in the classroom and future directions.

As previously mentioned, we have reviewed our school entry and exit safety and have found that there are some unsafe practises in and around the school at Drop Off and Pick Up times. We have developed a new Drop Off and Pick Up Procedure for Branxton Public School to ensure everyone's safety in and around the school. We were hoping to implement this procedure this week, however, with our planned maintenance across the school in the next 4 weeks leading up to the school holidays we have delayed its implementation until Term 2. The procedure will be posted home at the end of Term 1, ready to start at the beginning of Term 2.

We are currently developing a plan so that students can participate in school events and carry on the traditions of our school, these will include:

- Our Easter Hat Parade – Students will make Easter Hats at home (including Kindergarten who traditionally make them at school – sorry this is one tradition we cannot maintain in the current climate!). On Tuesday 7 April students will bring their Easter Hats to school and we will conduct individual class parades which I will attend. These will be filmed and uploaded onto See Saw for all parents, carers and relatives to see. I am currently negotiating for the Easter Bunny to visit each classroom and deliver the P&C eggs to class teachers.
- Our PBL Awards Assembly and Rewards Afternoon – I will visit each classroom in the

morning and present PBL Awards, once again this will be filmed and uploaded onto See Saw for all to see. In the afternoon we will have in class activities, which are currently being determined.

- Our ANZAC Service – Mr Tattis and Mrs Ballenden are currently in talks with our local organisers to try and do a remote video conference/electronic link service that students can be a part of in their classrooms.

We believe these options are a safe compromise in the current social climate and trust as always that our wonderful parents, carers and families will support us.

In Tuesday's notice to parents I also explained the planned maintenance for our school which starts today and continue into the holidays. There will be painting inside and out and gutter and downpipe replacement and repairs in Block A, Crocodile, Turtle/Dolphin, Lorikeet, Willy Wagtail and Goanna classrooms. The Goanna, Emu and Magpie classrooms will be getting new carpet. The Multi will be re-roofed and the steel painted. The paling fence adjacent to our neighbours will be replaced with Colourbond. The stairs to the Kindergarten classrooms will be replaced, as will windows in the girls' and boys' toilets. The asphalt under the COLA will be replaced and plumbing underneath repaired/replaced/upgraded as necessary. This will require careful and strategic planning around classes moving into other spaces, the installation and movement of safety fencing and changed access. The 3 biggest impacts during this time, will be:

1. Fencing off of the Multi and adjacent cement for the last three weeks of term, which will mean no access through our regular pedestrian gate on Queen Street. Entrance and exit during this time will be the vehicle double gates behind the Willy Wagtail Classroom.
2. The asphalt and plumbing work under the COLA scheduled for the school holidays may not be completed and therefore impact movement at the start of Term 2.
3. Increased number of contractors, vehicles, movement and Safety Fenced areas in the school to be aware of.

NB: We do have authorisation from NSW DoE

that at this point in time it is safe for contractors employed directly by NSW DoE to be on site. This week I have sent home daily updates for parents and carers around changes due to the current climate around germ control. The following is a brief summary of these and I will continue to send updates as appropriate. **Before I list the changes to date, the newest one to start from tomorrow Thursday 19 March is:**

All students are required to bring water bottles to school each day, we are currently discouraging the use of the bubblers due to the difficulty in ensuring they are cleaned between each use.

Other changes to date are:

- ◆ Anyone who has been on the school site who has been instructed to stay home on medical advice or who has been tested for the virus MUST notify the school.
- ◆ Canteen and Uniform Shop transactions will be online
- ◆ Classes will eat outside in a directly supervised, designated area
- ◆ Washing of hands regularly throughout the day, including but not limited to before and after: eating, entering Library and Classrooms, play time, using shared equipment eg computers, iPads, etc
- ◆ the following school events have been cancelled or postponed until further notice:
 - ◇ All school assemblies
 - ◇ School excursions
 - ◇ School Cross Country
 - ◇ All PSSA trials, carnivals, coaching and Knockout events.
 - ◇ Our combined Rutherford Community of Schools Staff Development Day for Thursday 9 April – this means all students are required to attend school on the last day of this term as per a normal school day.
 - ◇ All Branxton Public School P&C events, including AGM, meetings and Trivia night.
 - ◇ Parent/Teacher Interviews
 - ◇ Canteen Volunteers
 - ◇ NDIS provider visits
 - ◇ All Professional Learning off site
 - ◇ Contact play and games eg touch football, tips, etc



1. **Wash your hands** regularly and thoroughly.
2. **Sneeze into your elbow** or a tissue, disposing of the tissue straight away and then washing your hands.
3. **Stay home if you are unwell** and in schools, send home staff or students who show signs of being unwell through the day.

General advice from the NSW Government for parents and affected staff is regularly updated and is available on our [Novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) page](https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety/novel-coronavirus). Or this link <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety/novel-coronavirus>

There have been some questions around school closure and ceasing operations...please note that at this point in time Branxton Public School is operational. If the school is directed to cease operation or close, this directive will come from NSW Health and be fully supported by NSW DoE.

Alerts are being added daily, so please ensure you have downloaded the SkoolBag App as all future school updates will be posted on this platform.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school for an appointment to discuss the matters or pop me an email louise.blakemore@det.nsw.edu.au if the matter is less urgent. I look forward to continuing to meet parents as the term progresses.

Louise Blakemore
Principal (R)

PBL

Last week we started the first of our lessons on our Universal expectations. Universal expectations apply to everyone (students, teachers and community) in all areas of our school. They are linked to our expectations of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best.



Respect

SHINE
 S - Sit or stand still
 H - Hands to yourself
 I - In your own space
 N - No one else's
 E - Eyes on the speaker

We listen

We care

We treat others kindly

Responsibility

We act safely

We are in the right place at the right time

We own our actions

Personal Best

We are ready to learn

We give our best effort always

Show pride

Last week we had a lesson about listening. You may have heard teachers use the word SHINE. This acronym tells everyone what is expected to enable effective listening to take place. On Monday, our PBL lesson was about acting safely. Everyone has a right to be safe in all areas of our school. This includes behaviours such as:

- Using equipment correctly
- Walking on hard surfaces
- Using safe hands and safe feet (i.e. keeping hands and feet to yourself)
- Wearing a hat outdoors and so on.

HOW TO WASH YOUR HANDS



COUNT to 20
 as you
WASH
 Your Hands



P&C NEWS



This week's P&C news will unfortunately be about postponements and changes. As previously posted on our Facebook page, the second annual Trivia Night has been postponed. As yet, we do not have an alternative date but will let you know as soon as we do. This will depend on NSW Department of Health and Department of Education advice and will most likely be in Term 2.

To comply with the current NSW Health COVID-19 guidelines, we will be making some changes to the way the canteen will operate. From this Thursday, 19th March 2020 until the end of Term 1 (Thursday, 9th April 2020) the following exposure reduction measures will be implemented:

- * **A fully cashless canteen** – we will not be accepting cash payment for any breakfast, lunch or recess items. All lunch and recess orders are to be submitted via Flexischools.
- * **Reduced menu options** due to reduced supply issues and also to ensure the menu is manageable for one person to supply all lunch and recess orders on time.
- * **Pantry items only for recess** which will be provided with lunch in the class basket.
- * **No over the counter sales** at breakfast, lunch or recess.
- * **Limited volunteer access** – for now we will reduce the number of people in the canteen to one for Mon, Tue, Wed and Thu.
- * **Continued food safety standards**
- * **Alternative arrangements** can be set up if you are absolutely unable to use Flexischools. Please contact the canteen or school office so we can discuss options.

There will be more information to come later in the week regarding the operation of the school uniform shop. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for more updates.

Our annual NRL footy tipping competition started last week and as long as the season continues, keep your tips coming in. Payment is due via Flexischools and if, in the

iTipFooty.com.au

Direct deposit to P&C: 001 030 529
P&C Account: 33331
or pay online @flexischools

50% OF PROFITS RAISED FOR THE SCHOOL P&C

P&C puts 10% of entry fees towards resources for the students at BPS school. 80% Competition Thu 12/3/20 to Sun 6/9/20. Gift voucher prize to overall 1st, 2nd & 3rd place. 50% prizes after round 25. No weekly prizes.

Branxton Public School P&C Association
Welcomes All

Join our 2020 Footy Tipping Comp
STARTS Thursday 12th March 2020

Register at iTipFooty.com.au Comp # 113416. Powered Fundraiser

future, the season is suspended or postponed, we will advise of refunds or changes to the rules for the remainder of the season.

Key dates coming up:

- Next P&C Meeting – postponed until further notice.
- P&C AGM – postponed until further notice.
- BPS P&C Trivia Night – postponed until further notice.

Stay safe everyone and remember to look out for those who need it during these difficult times, just like our wonderful Branxton community has done in the past.

Melissa, P&C Secretary

branxtonpublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au
www.facebook.com/BranxtonPublicPandC

P&C MEETING DATES 2020

10 February	15 June	26 October
16 March (AGM)	3 August	30 November
11 May	7 September	

Meetings are held in Week 3 and Week 8 of each term in the library from 6pm.



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Tuesday, 17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: COVID-19 updates

Thank you all for your continued support of our school during these current precautionary measures to reduce the spread of infection. Further to yesterday's information, the following events, services and activities at Branxton Public School, are also postponed/cancelled until further notice

- Friday's school Cross Country
- NDIS services in school - as these practitioners travel from school site to school site, there is an increased risk of the spread of infection. Today classroom teachers will inform their attending NDIS providers of this decision via email.
- all Staff Professional Learning (PL), off site or where 2 or more schools are in attendance. There was a large number of PL opportunities over the coming weeks for staff. School based PL will still go ahead.

The P&C are putting into place measures to reduce face to face transactions and still offer a quality service in our Canteen and Uniform Shop. I would like to thank and acknowledge, P&C President, Kerrie O'Brien for her work behind the scenes to create a positive and workable solution for our school. Further information regarding this is attached and will also be on the P&C social media sites.

Other changes to support social distancing and good hygiene practices at Branxton Public School include:

- eating outside at lunch and recess in directly supervised, class allocated areas of the playground - please reinforce with your children the message about not sharing food and washing hands before and after eating.
- whole school play will continue at this stage as our school play areas are large enough that the students are spread out. However, to support social distancing any games involving direct contact, eg touch football, soccer, tips will temporarily cease. Teachers will be making suggestions for students to assist with alternatives. As well as hand washing before and after all ball games and playing on the fixed equipment.
- washing hands before and after using shared equipment eg laptops, iPads, computers, paint brushes, scissors etc. Staff are implementing wipe down procedures using antibacterial wipes and cleaners where suitable and appropriate.

We are currently planning innovative changes to both the PBL Assembly and Rewards Afternoon and Easter Hat Parade. Our current proposal will be that these will still occur, but in a very different format, with no on site audience. Further information regarding this will be forwarded in coming days. We still want our students to be recognised for their successes and to celebrate events.

I would like to acknowledge all staff for their positive, calm and professional approach to all of these changes to ensure the safety of everyone on site. In most cases this has created an increased workload and I thank the wonderful staff at Branxton Public School for their diligence and common sense responses to the current guidelines.

Branxton Public School students, staff and community are respectful, responsible and achieve their personal best.



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Re: Planned and Scheduled School Maintenance

Further to this the following school maintenance will be occurring in the coming weeks:

- painting of inside and/or outside areas of Block A, Crocodiles, Coolabah, Lorikeets, Willy Wagtails, Dolphins and Turtles classrooms - starting this week with Block A and possibly Crocodiles classroom, depending upon the weather. Classes will be moved from these rooms during the work and will undertake their lessons in alternate learning spaces in the school, such as Coolabah room, Dolphin Room and Library.
- new carpet in Goannas, Emus and Magpies classrooms - this will occur on Tuesday 30 March for Goannas and Wednesday 1 April for Emus and Magpies. Classes will be moved from these rooms during this work.
- re-roofing and painting of Multi - this area + the cement area adjacent to Goannas classroom and the back single gate will be fenced off from Monday 23 March until Thursday 9 April (last 3 weeks of term). During this time the double gate behind the Willy Wagtails classroom will be our Queen Street entry and exit area.

NB: Due to this work our new Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures will be delayed until Term 2.

- replacing paling with Colourbond fencing - the fencing between our school and our two neighbours on the corner will be replaced in the weeks leading up to the school holidays.
- replacing of windows in boys and girls toilets - this work will occur leading up to the school holidays and students will be redirected to use the demountable toilet during these times.
 NB: segregation of girls and boys will still occur during this time.
- painting, tiling and cleaning of Canteen and covered area adjacent to the Canteen - this work will occur leading up to the school holidays and further adjustments to the Canteen operations may occur at short notice.
- replacing of steps to Kindergarten verandah - this work is proposed for the Easter school holidays and should not affect school time.
- replacing of asphalt under COLA and checking underground plumbing in this area - once again this is scheduled for the Easter school holidays and should not affect school time. However, if there are delays due to weather or unknown obstacles underground, this work will impact everyone as we return to school for Term 2. I will keep you posted and informed during this time.

There will be a variety of safety fencing being used and moved during this time, plus multiple contractors and vehicles on and around our school site, so please be aware and move safely during this time. I am also continuing to seek advice regarding contractors working on site and the spread of illness in light of the current COVID-19 situation.

If you have any question, concerns or require clarification about any of these measures, please contact me on Louise.blakemore@det.nsw.edu.au or phone the school on 49381214.

Once again thank you for your diligence, support and calm approach to all these matters.

Louise Blakemore
 Principal (R)

CANTEEN NEWS

To continue to operate our school canteen over coming weeks, effective from this Thursday 19/3/20 until the end of Term 1 we are implementing the following COVID-19 exposure reduction measures in the Branxton Public School canteen.



- **A fully cashless canteen** – we will not be accepting cash payment for any breakfast, lunch or recess items. All lunch and recess orders are to be submitted via Flexischools.
- **Reduced menu options** due to reduced supply issues and also to ensure the menu is manageable for one person to supply all lunch and recess orders on time.
- **Pantry items only for recess** which will be provided with lunch in the class basket.
- **No over the counter sales** at breakfast, lunch or recess. We apologise for this inconvenience and hope you can send food from home or utilise the Flexischools ordering options.
- **Limited volunteer access** – for now we will reduce the number of people in the canteen to one for Mon, Tue, Wed and Thu. This will be Sharyn, our canteen manager. We will generally require only one volunteer on a Friday.
- **Continued food safety standards** will be adhered to as per usual. We will continue to maintain required food and personal hygiene measures such as washing of hands, sanitisation of hard surfaces, and use of gloves when appropriate.
- **Alternative arrangements** can be set up if you are absolutely unable to use Flexischools. Please contact the canteen or school office so we can discuss options.

We thank everyone for their support in managing this risk for our school community.



UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

To continue to operate our school uniform shop over coming weeks, effective immediately 17/3/20 until the end of Term 1 we are implementing these COVID-19 exposure reduction measures.

To help give everyone access to essential items

all products are limited to 1 per item per student per month



- **A fully cashless uniform shop** – we will not be accepting cash payment for any uniform purchases. All orders are to be submitted via Flexischools.
- **Limit of one of each item per person per month** due to an anticipated impact to supply. This can't be enforced in Flexischools so if more than one of each item is ordered we will supply one and arrange refund for the rest e.g. one polo shirt and one jumper is ok but not two jumpers. Exception will be made for families new to the school who may order two of each item.
- **Delivery of uniforms to classrooms** will continue as usual, orders via Flexischool will generally be provided to students on a Wednesday or a Friday.
- **No shop opening times for trying on** – we apologise for this inconvenience and hope you can utilise the Flexischools options to choose the right size. If the size is incorrect an exchange of an unworn, undamaged item still with all original packaging is always an option. Please return to the uniform shop and call the office, send an email or message the P&C to let the P&C know.
- **Limited volunteer access** – for now we will reduce the number of people in the uniform shop to one. This will be Leigh, our current coordinator. We will mostly likely next require uniform shop volunteers in November for Kindergarten orientations.
- **Appropriate hygiene standards** will be adhered to as per usual. We will continue to maintain required personal hygiene measures such as washing of hands.
- **Alternative arrangements** can be set up if you are absolutely unable to use Flexischools. Please contact the school office or message the P&C so we can discuss options.

We thank everyone for their support in managing this risk for our school community.



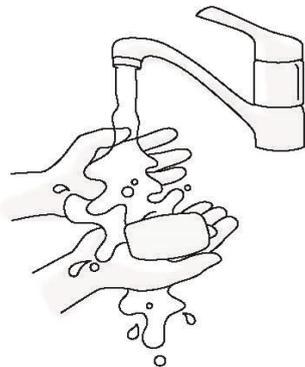
Cough etiquette

Cover your cough



- When coughing or sneezing, use a tissue to cover your nose and mouth
- Dispose of the tissue afterwards
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow.

Wash your hands



- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, wash your hands with soap and water
- Use alcohol-based hand cleansers if you do not have access to soap and water

Remember hand washing is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.

Anyone with signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection, regardless of the cause, should be instructed to cover their nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing; use tissues to contain respiratory secretions; dispose of tissues in the nearest waste receptacle after use; and wash their hands afterwards.