

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID update

Thank you all for your support during this lockdown period. We head into Week 3 with Level 4 restrictions still in place and with most students engaged in learning from home. We continue to ask (as per NSW Health protocols) that the only students at school are those of essential workers who are unable to have their children learn from home. As you would be aware, we are also following Departmental guidelines, with only minimal staff onsite and most staff working from home.

The impact of this to our school have been:

- Front Office staff reduced to one person only,
- No General Assistant onsite at any time,
- SLSO support staff reduced to a minimum,
- Executive staff reduced to a minimum, and
- Teaching staff reduced to a minimum.

I expect further updates throughout the week and I will keep you informed as this information comes to hand.

Education Week 2021

We also start this week acknowledging the annual celebration of 'Education Week'. This year's theme is 'Lifelong learners' and this theme recognises that education is a journey – one which begins before a child begins Kindergarten and continues throughout their life. Sadly, like last year, we celebrate Education Week under difficult circumstances.

We know that learning looks different for every child and we create the learning conditions at Erina Heights that support every child to succeed and thrive. Our students are encouraged to set goals, work hard, dream big and to stand up for what they believe in. We believe that there are no barriers to what individual students can achieve, and anything is possible.

Never has it been more important than now to acknowledge that learning often takes place beyond the classroom and we should celebrate all types of learning - learning that occurs in all contexts and is delivered in a variety of ways. Although our planned celebrations have changed, we have every reason to celebrate the wonderful job our teachers and students are doing. We also celebrate the amazing support and kindness of our school community. The 'remote learning' environment is allowing us to see daily innovations in both teaching and learning, we have seen teachers, parents and students adapt to a completely different style of teaching and learning in an incredibly short time-frame – we have much to celebrate.

If your child is unwell

If your child is at all unwell, they must not come to school. Any child that presents unwell at school, even if they have the mildest COVID symptoms, will be sent home. Students must return a negative COVID-19 test and be symptom-free prior to returning to school.

Thank you again for your support and understanding in these difficult times.

Kind regards,

Natalie MacDonald