

The Gecko News

Principal's Word



I wish to thank our school community for their patience and understanding as we work through the ever-evolving COVID-19 situation. It has been challenging to keep abreast of the changing rules and guidelines, as WA now transitions to very high case load settings as of 12:01am today, Thursday 10 March.

The new school based very high caseload protocols are critical as part of the new settings to:

- maximise face-to-face learning and student attendance at school; and
- facilitate a quick return to school for asymptomatic close contacts, school staff and students following exposure to COVID-19, under the critical worker protocols.

Key definitions to help understand the new rules are:

Asymptomatic:

An asymptomatic person means they have no COVID-19 symptoms.

Household Close Contact:

If a member of your household is COVID-19 positive, then the whole household are deemed household close contacts and the testing and isolation protocols apply.

Please note, a student who is a 'household close contact' must isolate and not attend school.

Close contact:

Someone who has had close personal interaction with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period, including:

- At least 15 minutes face to face contact where a mask was not worn by the exposed person and the person with COVID-19; or
- Greater than two hours within a small room or a classroom environment with a person with COVID-19 during their infectious period, where masks have been removed for this period by the exposed person and the person with COVID-19 (note: others wearing masks in this scenario would not be a contact); or
- Someone who is directed by WA Health that they are a close contact.

Students who are **asymptomatic 'close contacts'** can continue to attend school under a modified quarantine arrangement. They must:

Take a PCR test or RAT on Day 1 or as soon as possible:

- **if positive** – follow confirmed COVID-19 case guidelines
- **if negative** – return to school. The student is allowed to attend:
 - school;
 - out of school care; and
 - sporting or cultural training, practice or events organised through the relevant school and held immediately before or after school on the school grounds, travelling between the student's usual place of residence and the place where the activity above takes place.

If parents choose not to follow the above testing requirements for the modified quarantine arrangements then the student is required to complete the isolation period.

If your child is unwell, we ask that you please keep your child home. If they are presenting with COVID-19 symptoms they should get tested, either via PCR or RAT.

If your child tests positive when the school is closed, we ask that you please inform us via the administration email: southhallshead.ps@education.wa.edu.au or alternatively my direct email: Melanie.Buller@education.wa.edu.au

I understand that there is a lot of information to take in, and that each case is individual, presenting different circumstances. If you have any concerns or require any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Melanie Buller
Principal

THANK YOU!

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2022 Years 3 – 6 Swimming Lessons

Students in Years 3 - 6 classrooms will be participating in the two-week swimming program at Doddi's Beach starting this coming Monday, 14 March.

On Friday, 25 March, students will have their regular swimming lessons as well as participate in a Beach Carnival with modified beach activities.

Please note there are still some enrolment forms and payments outstanding. If you are having difficulty downloading the enrolment form or making payment, please contact the school office for assistance.

If you have any queries regarding the swimming program, please contact Mr Dowding (P.E. Teacher) via the school office on 9584 6200.



Purple Day!

On April 1, the student councillors will be hosting 'Purple Day' to raise funds for Epilepsy WA. To join in the fun, students can wear something purple to school. This could be purple socks, a purple mask, purple hair accessories, a purple t-shirt or more! Participating students are asked to bring a gold coin donation on the day.

Farmer Mick

On Friday, 18 March 'A Farmyard on Wheels' with presenter 'Farmer Mick' will be coming to visit the Pre-Primary! Each class will have the opportunity to interact and learn about farm animals in the school grounds, including lambs, piglets and sheep. We look forward to sharing the photos of the fun!

Payment and permission can be completed through Compass.

Dental Therapy Centre

The school dentist is not currently accepting walk-ins due to COVID-19 restrictions. If you have any queries, please contact the dental centre directly on 9535 1798.

P & C News

Easter Eggstravaganza!

SHHPS P&C are holding an Easter Raffle to fundraise for resources for our school community.

We are seeking families to voluntarily donate an Easter item to go in the raffle, such as:

- an Easter Egg (Please ensure you adhere to the school's no nut policy);
- an Easter themed product (book, toy, stationery);
- an Easter basket, ribbons, cellophane etc.; or
- a gold coin donation

Your child can start bringing their Easter goodies to their classroom teacher between Monday, 21 March and Friday, 1 April.

Each class will have its own raffle prizes drawn. Tickets will be \$1 each. Further details and raffle tickets will be sent out to all families soon.



Canteen

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED! The Canteen is in need of volunteers for Friday's. Do you have a spare 30 minutes or 1 hour on a Friday? Visit the ladies in the Canteen for more information. Any help would be appreciated.

