



KENT ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL

BLUE GUM NEWS



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Term Three Week Three

Thursday 29th July 2021

Dear Kent Road Parents and Carers,

STAFF NEWS – FAREWELL MISS ROGERS

This week I have happy but sad news regarding our highly respected Year Five teacher, Miss Rogers, who is leaving Kent Road tomorrow, Friday.

After three and a half years teaching at Kent Road, Miss Rogers is returning to England next week. Miss Rogers and her partner are very excited to be returning home to see their families and friends, and to prepare for the arrival of their first baby later in the year.

It goes without saying, we are very happy for Miss Rogers and we wish her all the very best for the future, which we hope will include a return to Australia and Kent Road.

We have been extremely fortunate to have Miss Rogers on our teaching team, teaching Year Six, Year Four and leading the Year Five team in 2021. Her ability to engage with students, and to encourage and support them with their learning has made her a great asset to our school. Miss Rogers has shared her vast knowledge, understanding and experience from her years of teaching in England, and our teachers have benefitted from her expertise and friendship.

Whilst I am sad to see Miss Rogers leave, I am very happy for her as she begins this new adventure.

We will miss you Miss Rogers!

We are fortunate that Miss van der Walt has returned and will teach 5R for the remainder of 2021. Many of our Year Five students were taught by Miss van der Walt in Year One, and she has reconnected with students through zoom lessons over the past three weeks.

STAY AT HOME – NSW PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS UPDATE

Many thanks to all the parents who are abiding by the NSW Public Health orders and keeping their children at home.

Currently student attendance statistics across Sydney indicate 1-3% of students are attending school. However, at Kent Road 11-12% of students are attending each day. Since last week, our numbers have continued to increase. Students should only be attending school if they are the child of an essential worker, or if there is no responsible person at home to supervise their child.

Many thanks also to those parents working in essential services; to the nurses, doctors, paramedics, hospital workers; people in emergency services; food transport, garbage truck drivers and others, where we would be without you! We too are doing our best to support all students and care for our own families during this very difficult time, and we know the stress being experienced by people in other industries. Everyone please remember there is help out there for people experiencing hardship and having difficulties with the added stress caused by the further extension of the lockdown.

Yesterday's announcement that the Local Government Area (LGA) of Parramatta is now in lockdown has a significant impact on Kent Road staff with a large number of staff not able to attend work for at least the next four weeks. As a result, the following changes will be in place from tomorrow, Friday 30th July.

- Students in Kindergarten and Year One who attend school will be located in I block, which is next to the library, under the supervision of two teachers who will be rostered to attend school. Students need to bring their paper pack to school with them as they will complete this on the days they attend school.
- Students in Years 2-6 who attend school will be located in the assembly hall and will be supervised by two teachers who will be rostered to attend school. Students need to bring their paper pack to school with them as they will complete this on the days they attend school.
- Some students are attending school because they miss their friends. This is not a valid reason to attend school under the current Public Health orders.
- Some students are attending school because they want to see their teacher. Teachers will be rostered to attend school one day per fortnight but will be online in zoom lessons multiple times each week. Again, this is not a valid reason to attend school under the current Public Health orders.
- Students who live in a suburb which falls in the Parramatta LGA are asked to continue learning from home via the online learning platform. In addition, today's government update placed a 5 kilometre limit on travel for people living in any of the eight locked down LGAs.

Hopefully, as the government's vaccination program speeds up, we will soon return to our usual way of life, but until then everyone must be vigilant in following the Public Health orders. The virus has spread very rapidly from Fairfield across multiple suburbs and is now in suburbs adjoining the Ryde LGA. We all must do what we can to stop the spread of the virus.

Last year teachers were very concerned our students would fall behind due to the lockdown period but that did not occur. Parents should be assured that when students return to school after this lockdown, our teachers have processes in place to identify any gaps in learning and to support students to overcome these.

There may be days when home learning is impossible. Poor internet connections, lack of motivation, disinterest in a topic, tiredness, all impact on how we function. It is ok for students to take a break from learning for a day or two to play with their Lego, colour in, read a book all day, go outside and kick a ball or play with their cat. For inspiration, watch the Olympic Games and see the achievements of amazing athletes from around the world.

We understand parents are time poor and have their own work commitments. If students can do 20-30 minutes per day reading and Mathematics, they will maintain their core skills. The most important things you can do with your child at home include being positive, encourage them to do their work but don't battle your child to make them learn, read with them or to them, talk to them.

CHILDREN WHO ARE SICK

No child should attend school if they are sick. If your child is coughing, has a runny nose, or has a sore throat **it is essential they get a covid test and not attend school until they receive a negative test.**

We require every member of our school community to follow these Health orders so that everyone can remain safe and life can start to get back to normal as soon as possible.

ONLINE LESSONS

Students in all grades must log in to zoom lessons using their Department of Education user name and password.

Go to the Kent Road Public School website, click on the link to the appropriate grade. Students will be prompted to log in – this is where the student's Department of Education log in details are required.

This process is necessary to ensure the safety of our students online and reduce the possibility of zoom lessons being hacked.

Online lessons are being presented to each grade via zoom multiple times each day. Additionally, a teacher from the grade will be online to support students from 9am-3.10pm. Students are encouraged to ask questions via the chat function if they need help.

Through the zoom lessons students have the opportunity to share ideas, see their friends and ask teachers for help if needed throughout the day.

PLEASE BE AWARE:

- **DROP OFF and PICK UP - GATES 3 and 5 ONLY**
- **NO PARENTS ARE PERMITTED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**
- **OOSH –** Parents must wear a mask and use the QR code when dropping off or collecting children from OOSH.
- **UNIFORM SHOP: currently closed**
- **CANTEEN – currently closed**

These are difficult times but if we work together and follow the Public Health orders things will start to improve.

I look forward to the day when all students are back at school and our playground is full of happy children laughing and playing. Until then please care of yourselves.

Denise Minifie

Principal