

School Attendance

Attendance is a major factor in student's success at school. We expect students to attend school everyday with arrival to be before our 9.00am start time and for the school to be contacted if any student is absent.

It is important to send your child to school every day because:-

Attending regularly helps your child develop a sense of belonging and connection to the school community.

If a child misses one day a week of school (from years 1 to 10), they will miss almost two years of learning.

If a child misses two days a week of school (from years 1 to 10), they will miss almost four years of learning.

Frequent absences not only mean less teaching time in the classroom, but also missed opportunities for extra help, re-teaching topics that the child might not have understood completely and extension activities.

Gumbaynggirr Language and Culture

Dean Loadman continues to educate our students about the local culture and language. Students are developing their skills in dance, land and food management techniques, understanding traditional tools and weapons as well as the local creation story of Durrangun. All of this learning will be put together in a video to be shared with our community.

COVID UPDATE

Parents are asked to wait at the gate to collect their children and not enter the school grounds. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Parents may enter school grounds to attend a meeting with a school staff member but are required to maintain social distancing and complete a Covid visitor acknowledgement form each time they enter the school.

Year 6 Transition to high school has been postponed to Term 4.

Ready, Set, Go has also been postponed until further notice.

Safety and hygiene

What's changing as of 17 August: some of the changes required from schools are:

- Vigilance in ensuring that staff and students do not attend school or work if they are unwell.
- Students absent or sent home due to flu like symptoms need to be tested.
- Staff and students must not return to school or work until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free
- Schools must sight the negative COVID-19 test result prior to allowing students and staff to return to school.
- Schools should limit activities to year groups whenever possible.
- Parents/carers must not come to school if they are unwell. Even with very mild symptoms.
- Teachers should be vigilant in recognising if any students are exhibiting flu like symptoms during teaching and learning activities. Where identified they must refer the student to the sick bay or other appropriate area where they can be isolated and the school must arrange for the parent or carer to take the student home.

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- If a student has been absent due to flu like illness or develops flu like symptoms while at school, they are not to return to school until they have a negative COVID19 test and are symptom free. The negative COVID-19 test result must be sighted and received by the school for students before they return to school.

Schools should encourage the immediate COVID-19 testing for any student identified as being unwell.

Advice for families page

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

5/6A Sustainable School project: Sustainable students = Sustainable school

Over the past two terms 5/6A have been working hard on making Gillwinga a more sustainable school. During the beginning of Covid-19 we decided to make raised garden beds and grow our own food. Adding onto this, we now have green waste bins in every class. Reducing our carbon footprint has been our major focus and with a new compost bin (the Subpod) we are able to turn green waste into nutrient rich soil. Our planet is suffering a lot this year given the current circumstances and it has made us reflect on what is really important. Recycling our own green waste, reducing our carbon footprint and reusing rather than simply throwing away. We are learning about how to help our planet but more

importantly we are doing something about it. – Liam & Lucy



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5/6B Class Activities

Term three for 5/6B has provided exciting opportunities and events. We were given the opportunity to watch a tree carving of a Coolomon and decorated boomerangs using colours of the Aboriginal flag with dot paintings and Aboriginal symbols. We have also had a visit from the Life Education van and got to see happy, healthy Harold and learn about the effects of alcohol. We had a visit from the Clarence/Coffs Police talking about road and cyber safety and the PCYC that will be opening in Grafton to support the local community.



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