



Russell Lea
PUBLIC SCHOOL



Newsletter

Term 2, Week 2 Friday 22 May 2020

Important Dates

Please refer to our [website calendar](#) for a full list of 2020 school dates

May 25

All students return to on site learning

July 1

Athletics Carnival (TBC)

July 3

Last Day of Term 2

July 21

First Day of Term 3

We Made It!

As this Friday marks the official end to the home learning for most of us, I would like to acknowledge our school community for the huge commitment to learning they have made over the last two months.

Our teachers faced the challenges presented by COVID-19 with creativity, collaboration and high expectations. Within days they transformed learning programs into stage based remote learning units and established feedback and communication systems. Along the way they demonstrated high level care for our students by being flexible and attentive to individual needs and the gaps that formed in student engagement and success. Taking on feedback and problem solving to constantly improve education delivery for our families.

Many of our parents have voiced a renewed respect for the skills and expertise of our teaching staff. Parents who took on the role of teacher have worked tirelessly to assist their children, often while juggling competing work and family commitments. Hard lessons have been learnt about the process of learning and how students respond to a range of activities. Again collaboration between parents and teachers has resulted in adjustments in delivery and programs to ensure success.

Throughout the restrictions RLPS has had some of the highest attendance in the state. The trust the community has developed in the school over a number of years and the calm manner with which our families have responded to the crisis must have contributed to this statistic. Our students have played their part very well too. Turning up to school and logging into Zoom with their unwavering enthusiasm. The excitement and engagement with face to face time speaks volumes of the important role schools play in providing opportunities for positive human connection. Our staff deeply appreciate this idea and they have spoken so positively about our students returning to school on Monday.

Dan Sprange
Principal

COVID-19 Update

Student Attendance Arrangements

As advised on Wednesday students will be attending RLPS five days per week from Monday 25 May. Attendance is mandatory and given this home learning will not continue beyond Friday 22 May. Exemptions may be granted to students with documented medical conditions which leave them or their families susceptible to COVID-19 infection. If you intend to keep your child at home for this reason please contact the school so absence and learning arrangements can be discussed and approved.

Infection Control Measures

On return students will learn in their own classroom with their own teacher and classmates. Students will continue to practice enhanced hygiene practices such as washing before eating and after playtime. **Please note our bubblers have been turned off on the updated advice of NSW Health. Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school so they can remain hydrated throughout the day.** The school has ample supply of sanitiser and cleaning products. Additional hours of cleaning have been allocated and high traffic areas are sanitised during the school day. Students presenting with COVID-19 related symptoms such as a sore throat or cough cold or gastroenteritis, flu-like symptoms or other infectious diseases should not attend school. To prevent the spread of infection in the school any child presenting with these symptoms will be sent to the office and their parents contacted. If you are unsure about whether to send your child to school due to illness please contact the school for clarification or exercise caution and keep them at home.

Student Reports

In Week 10 a basic student report will be provided to parents. The standard report format has been altered to reflect the considerable adjustments made to learning delivery in Terms 1 and 2. Unfortunately we are unable to provide a comprehensive report of student achievement because most students have not been engaged in learning delivered directly by their class teacher for a significant portion of the semester. To maintain the integrity of the reporting process we can only report on learning which has been effectively taught by teaching staff in regular teaching and learning cycles. We understand school reports are highly valued by our community and we expect to provide a comprehensive report in Semester 2.

Uniform Shop and Canteen

The uniform shop remains open on Tuesday and Friday mornings thanks to Lauren and Evy. Canteen services will recommence in Week 6. As with the uniform shop parent volunteers are permitted on site to assist with this service.

Band

Teaching Services Australia will provide on site school Band practice from Monday 25 May. They will contact parents directly regarding these arrangements and will follow school guidelines on infection control.

SRE and SEE

No date for the resumption of Scripture and Ethics classes has been given. Some volunteers are vulnerable to infection and are unable to attend school. As previously advised online resources have been made available for those who wish to continue ethics and religious education at home. The five live portal entry points to lesson content are provided below:

- [Approved providers for All Faiths SRE](#) (Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist, Bahai, Hindu)
- [Anglican SRE](#)
- [Catholic SRE](#)
- [Approved providers for Christian based faith SRE](#)
- [Primary Ethics for SEE](#)

Please note these are optional learning activities for those students who wish to remain involved in SEE and SRE learning.

COVID-19 Update (continued)

Drop Off and Pick Up Arrangements

Parents are required to drop/collect their children at the entrances/exits designated below from 9am and 3.25pm respectively. Children from the same family are permitted to use the entrance/exit for the youngest child in the family and those on bikes and scooters may use the Administration gate. Please ensure older siblings know to go to the youngest child's gate if this is your preference. Staff will supervise each gate to receive and release your child to you. Please do not enter the school unless you need to meet with school staff or wet weather is declared.

Year group	Drop off/ Pick up Entrance/Exit
Kindergarten	Whittall Street Administration gate
Year 1 and Year 2	Whittall Street Hall gate (drop off) Whittall Street Hall Vehicle gate (pick up)
Year 3 and Year 4	McCulloch Street gate
Year 5 and Year 6	Lithgow Street gate

*Parents dropping and picking up children from OOSH can enter the school as normal throughout Term 2.

As Week 5 will see increased numbers of parents and children at drop off and pick up times, especially on Whittall Street. Given this it is essential the arrangements we have communicated are followed, especially at pick up time. When arriving at school please ensure you:

- Arrive early if you need to leave on time as the pick-up process will take longer than usual and your child will be released when you reach the front of the line.
- Line up on the yellow (1.5m) marks along (and close to) each fence according to the maps below. The colours on the map represent where you should line up for each stage. Lining up according to these lines will keep the pathway clear, maintain 1.5m separation and allow people to pass safely.
- Wait in line until you reach the gate. Once you reach the gate at pick up time your child will be called to the front and will leave with you.
- Park legally and use the pedestrian crossing when crossing Whittall Street.
- Pick up your child from the appropriate gate without calling to them to come to your car or cross the road to where you are standing.

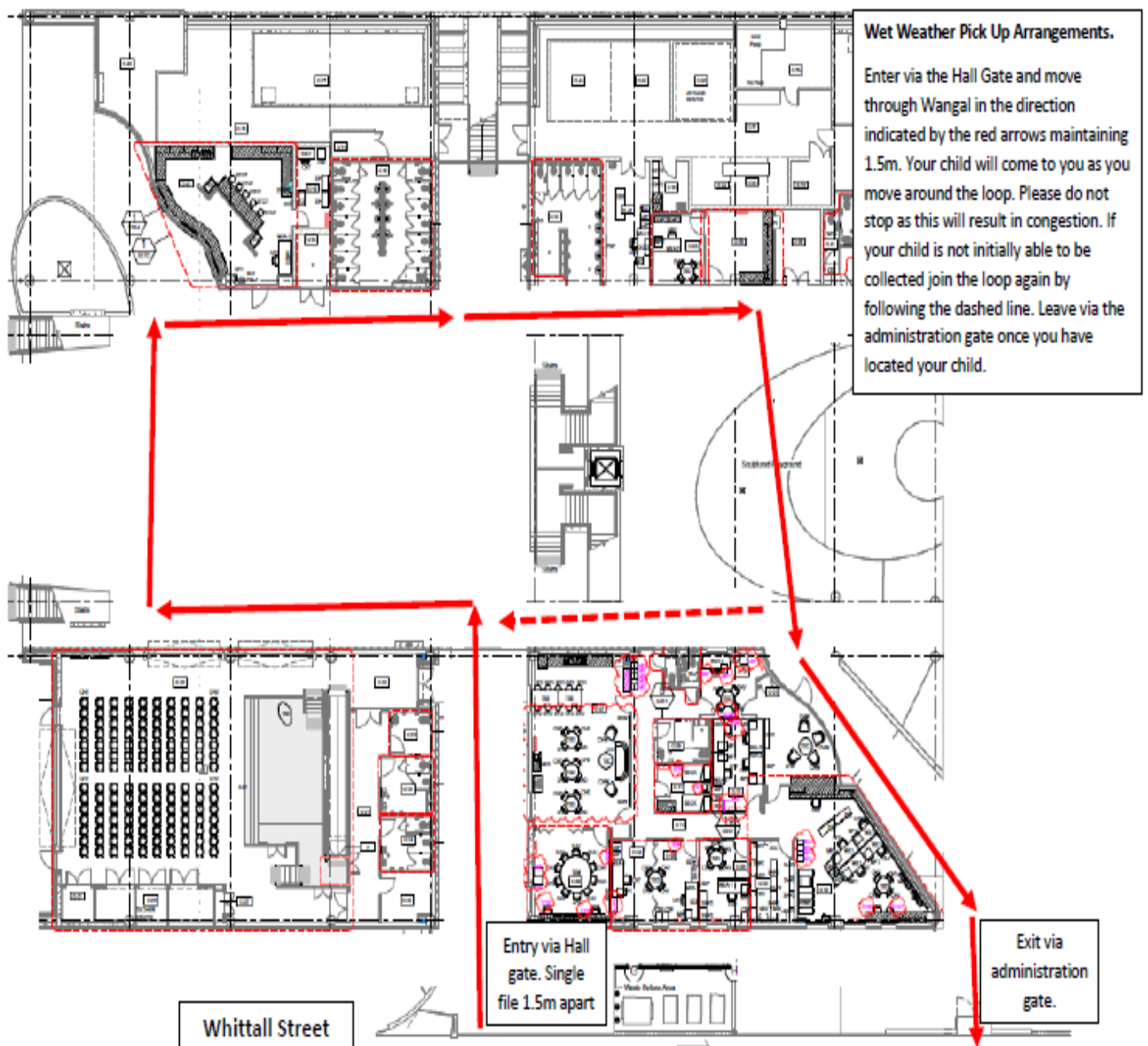


COVID-19 Update (continued)

Wet Weather Drop Off and Pick Up Arrangements

If it is raining heavily at drop off time the Whittall Street gates will be supervised from undercover areas. The Lithgow and McCulloch Street gates may not be supervised in heavy rain however they will be open for students in Stages 2 and 3 respectively to enter the school.

If it is raining at pick up time parents will be notified via SkoolBag that wet weather arrangements are in place. In this event students will wait in class groups in Wangal. Parents will be permitted to enter the school gradually from 3pm via the Whittall Street Hall gate as pictured in the map provided below. After entering the school parents will move through Wangal in the direction indicated by the red arrows maintaining 1.5m separation. Your child will come to you as you move around the loop. Please do not stop as this will result in congestion and leave other parents exposed to wet weather. If your child is not initially able to be collected join the loop again by following the dashed line. Once you have picked up your child please leave promptly via the administration gate. Supervision will be provided until all parents have had the chance to pick up their child.



Managing Online Gaming (By Martine Oglethorpe)

Working with kids in schools these past weeks, and indeed having five children of my own, has alerted me to the seemingly unprecedented obsession with the new online game Fortnite. Not since Pokémon Go has something seemed to take the world by storm, leaving parents wondering when it will ever stop. The answer to that last question is probably that it will stop when the next big thing comes along. These fads may well be a modern day version of the Rubik's Cube, elastics or swap cards, though of course the effects of the obsession can be much more pervasive than with my childhood obsession with PacMan.

If Fortnite is the latest craze to hit your household, or you are being nagged and cajoled to let them have the game "that everyone else is playing", then here are a few things you should know:

- It is violent. The aim of the game is to be the last person standing, and in order to do that you must kill all the other players.
- However the violence is portrayed as less real and almost cartoonish. There is no blood and gore as such, and so the violence is not comparable to that portrayed in other games such as Call of Duty or Grand Theft Auto.
- You can work in a team or on your own; working in a team can develop some effective teamwork skills.
- You can chat to team members but also random strangers who make up the remainder of the 100 players who are playing at the time.
- You can turn the chat function off by going to the settings and clicking on Audio options. This limits chatting to a player's friends or team members.
- Kids will be very loud playing this game so there is little chance of them playing it behind your back!
- Each game goes for about 20 minutes so it is an easy one to put time limits on by stipulating the number of games.
- It is frequently described as addictive so it is unlikely they will leave a game midway through.

As with any new game, social network or fad, it is crucial that we familiarise ourselves with it. Have a game with them, play around with the app or read about what the possible dangers may be so that you can have the right conversations and put the right boundaries in place. By watching the game being played, you will have a far greater understanding of what your children are being exposed to and can then make decisions, based on our own values, about whether the game is appropriate for your child and whether you believe they are developmentally ready.

Whilst there are certainly many areas of video gaming to be concerned about, it is also important to recognise that most video games can build skills and can also have social, emotional and cognitive benefits.

Benefits of video games

Social and emotional effects: Playing video games after a challenging day at school can provide relaxation and stress release and is a great way for some kids to unwind. Finding a place to fit in or belong may also be a benefit, particularly for those kids who don't excel on the sporting field or who struggle in other social settings, etc. A lot of group work is used in these games and thus skills in cooperation, leadership, group work and collaboration may also be enhanced.

Physical benefits: Hand/eye coordination skills are developed as well as greater spatial awareness and recognition.

Cognitive skills: Thinking and analysing skills are certainly being developed through game play, as are persistence and thinking outside the box. Trial and error is often required in order to find the way to the next level, survive with limited ammo or create a structure with varying materials.

Now of course in order to enjoy these benefits parents need to ensure that gaming remains under control and that the games being played are at an appropriate level for their child.

Things to keep in mind

- Play a game with your child or watch someone else play if you are unsure if it is appropriate. There are plenty of videos on YouTube of people playing games so that can be a good way of getting a feel for a game before you hand over the controller. Many have also cited great benefits and bonding from playing these games with their kids. Young people often enjoy 'teaching' their parents as well.
- Discuss any themes or concepts you are concerned about to see if your child has a grasp on the reality (or lack thereof) when it comes to certain games.
- Monitor how your individual child is coping with a game and the amount of time they are playing. If their mood is changing, they are having a fight to come to the dinner table or they are staying up all night and neglecting other areas of their lives, then you will need to step in and make some changes.
- Remember it is your house and your rules. But making these rules and boundaries from a place of knowledge and understanding makes them a lot easier to enforce.
- If a child is struggling with time limits, warnings may help and you may wish to slowly reduce the time being played (rather than go cold turkey). However, some parents have had success with giving their kids a total break from games when things were getting out of hand. Others prefer to limit game playing to certain times of the day, once school work or household chores are completed or to weekends only.
- Always go to the settings area of any game or network as there you will find ways to make the experience as safe and positive as possible. Minimising the number of people they have the ability to connect with and who can make contact with them is a good place to start.



NSW Public Education's Charity of Choice, where every dollar raised goes directly towards supporting public school children's access to the Stewart House Program.

Russell Lea Public School

Congratulations

**to our whole school community, our P & C,
our Team Stewart House volunteers and
our teachers Miss Tang, Ms Aguisanda, and Mrs G.**

**We have been awarded a Platinum Award for the most
money raised per capita in NSW in 2019.**

**Instead of our volunteers visiting Stewart House to receive
the award this year, there will be a Virtual Ceremony of
Appreciation. If you would like to write and tell Stewart
House about some of our Mufti Days, draw a picture, send
a photo or talk about being a volunteer and what it means
to you please send it by next Friday 29 May to**

Marketing Coordinator Olga Cahill

olga@stewarhouse.org.au

Keep Updated On The Latest Advice From The NSW Education Department

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

Traffic light upgrades on Lyons Road, Drummoyne from Monday 25 May

The NSW Government is carrying out this essential work as part of ongoing maintenance of the State road network.

Transport for NSW will upgrade the traffic lights at two intersections on Lyons Road, Drummoyne starting from **Monday 25 May 2020**.

At the Lyons Road and Gipps Street intersection, we will add turning arrows to the lights to hold vehicles while pedestrians cross the road. And at the Lyons Road and Brent Street intersection, we will add turning arrows to the lights and install a new traffic lights post to increase the visibility of the traffic lights for road users coming out of Brent Street.

To carry out the work at both locations, we will have to dig up the road surface and footpath. When work is complete, we will restore the road and footpath back to existing conditions.

Our maintenance work aims to:

- increase safety for all road users
- provide consistent driving conditions for motorists
- reduce road maintenance costs.



Our work schedule

We will be on site for up to **nine day shifts** and **eight night shifts** at the intersection of Lyons Road and Gipps Street, Drummoyne.

For the work at Lyons Road and Brent Street, we will be on site for **four day shifts** and up to **four night shifts**.

Work at both locations will happen between **Monday 25 May** and **Friday 29 June**, weather permitting.

Our night shift work hours will be between **8pm and 5am** and our day shift work hours will be between **7am to 5pm** from Sunday to Friday. We will not work on public holidays.

Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact our delivery partner, LT Joint Venture, on **1800 735 563** or info@ltjv.com.au

For more information on our projects, visit rms.nsw.gov.au.

Thank you for your patience during this important work.

How will the work affect you?

Our work may be noisy at times but we will do everything we can to minimise its impact, including completing the noisier tasks by **11pm**.

To minimise disruption to residents, businesses and road users, we will not work more than two nights in any week, or more than six nights in one month at any one location.

Traffic changes

There will be temporary traffic changes during our work hours to ensure the work zone is safe for pedestrian, motorists and workers. During work when the traffic lights have to be switched off, traffic controllers will direct motorists and pedestrians.

Please keep to speed limits and follow signs and traffic controllers' directions. For the latest traffic updates, you can call 132 701, visit livetraffic.com or download the Live Traffic NSW App.



Translating and Interpreting Service

If you need an interpreter, please call TIS National on **131 450** and ask them to telephone LT Joint Venture on **1800 735 563**.

Arabic

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم، يرجى الاتصال بـ TIS الوطنية على الرقم **131 450** وأطلب منهم الاتصال بـ LT Joint Venture على هاتف رقم **1800 735 563**. ساعات العمل الخاصة بنا 9.00 am-5.00 pm.

Greek

Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα, καλέστε την Εθνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνείας και Μετάφρασης (TIS National) στο **131 450** και ζητήστε να καλέσουν το LT Joint Venture στον αριθμό **1800 735 563**. Οι ώρες λειτουργίας μας είναι 9.00 am-5.00 pm.

Mandarin

如果您需要口译员，请拨打TIS National的电话 **131 450**，请他们打电话给 LT Joint Venture，电话号码：1800 735 563。我们的营业时间是 9.00 am-5.00 pm。

Spanish

Si necesita un intérprete, por favor llame a TIS National en el **131 450** y pida que lo comuniquen con LT Joint Venture en el 1800 735 563. Nuestro horario de oficina es 9.00 am-5.00 pm.

Vietnamese

Nếu quý vị cần thông dịch viên, xin hãy gọi cho Dịch vụ Thông Phiên dịch Quốc gia (TIS Quốc gia) theo số **131 450** và yêu cầu họ gọi cho LT Joint Venture theo số 1800 735 563. Giờ làm việc của chúng tôi là 9.00 am-5.00 pm.