



'The Bittern Buzz'

~ Newsletter ~

Term 1—30/01/20



Welcome back to all of our returning families for 2020 and a big welcome to all of our new families that have joined us for an amazing 2020 school year.

If you have any questions, suggestions or feedback please come and have a chat with either the classroom teachers or visit the front office.

Teacher Placements for 2020

Prep/1: Jo Towill

PE: Steve Espenschied

Year 1/2: Ben Isufi

Art: Kate Bacon

Year 3/4 A: Kayla Farrugia

AUSLAN: Kate Bacon

Year 3/4 B: Lucas Durrington

Music: Nick Lewis

Year 5/6 A: Cherie Evans

STEM: Steve Espenschied

Year 5/6 B: Kim Laity

DIARY DATES 2020

FEBRUARY

10th—Parent information Session. 4—6pm

14th - Free dress day—Gold coin donation to support victims of the recent bushfires

18th—Finance meeting.

2:15pm

20th—Swim carnival. Years 3—6

25th—Pancake day

25th—School council AGM. 6pm

27th—District swimming

28th—Clean up Australia Day



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

There have been quite a few birthdays during the holidays. We'd like to say a BIG happy birthday to....

Logan C

Kaden M

Rocky P

Kai R

Michael B

Mia S

Jemma R

Marley M

Ethan R

Mrs Beech



DET Annual Privacy Reminder

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website:

[http://www.bitternps.vic.edu.au/?
page_id=74](http://www.bitternps.vic.edu.au/?page_id=74)



For more information about privacy, see: Schools' Privacy Policy – information for parents. This information also available in nine community languages.

Family Information notices went home yesterday with students. Please check all details to ensure they are correct. If anything needs to be updated, please add it to the forms and return them to the front office.



Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Factsheet for school students and children

Last updated 29 January 2020

An outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was detected in Wuhan, China in late December 2019. Cases have been reported predominantly in the city of Wuhan, in the Hubei province of China, as well as some other Chinese cities and countries, including two confirmed cases in Victoria, Australia.

What is this virus?

Coronaviruses can make humans and animals sick. Some coronaviruses can cause illness similar to the common cold and others can cause more serious diseases, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

The virus seen in Hubei Province, China is called 'novel' because it is new. It has not been detected before this outbreak. Most people infected live in, or travelled to, Hubei Province, China. There have been cases of 2019-nCoV reported in other Chinese provinces and other countries. It is likely that the virus originally came from an animal, and there is now evidence that it can spread from person-to-person.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath. Symptoms can take up to 14 days to develop.

What if my child is well, and returning to school after being in Hubei province, China or other countries with cases in the last 14 days?

All students and staff members who have travelled to Hubei Province, China, are advised to stay at home and avoid public settings, including attendance at schools and early learning centres, until 14 days after last being in Hubei province, China.

Children and staff who are well and have travelled to other provinces in China, or any other areas where there have been reported cases, are NOT recommended to be excluded from schools and child care services unless the following applies:

- The person is a confirmed case of novel coronavirus
- The person is a close contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days

What if my child feels sick now or within 14 days of being in Hubei Province, China or another part of China?

- If your child has a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, they must be excluded from school and be reviewed by a doctor.
- Seek medical attention but first place a mask on the student if you have one and call the doctor or hospital before you attend. Tell them your child has been in Hubei province, China, or the location of travel within China.
- When you get to the hospital or doctor's clinic, tell them where your child has travelled in China and whether this included Hubei Province. Ensure a mask is placed on your child before or as soon as you arrive at the medical facility.

If your child has severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath:

- Call 000 and request an ambulance, and
- Inform the paramedics where your child has been in China.



How can I help prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV?

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence. The most important actions are:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow

Where can I get more information?

For Victorian updates to the current incident, go to: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>

For national updates: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/latest-information-about-novel-coronavirus>

For international updates: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

WHO resources <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

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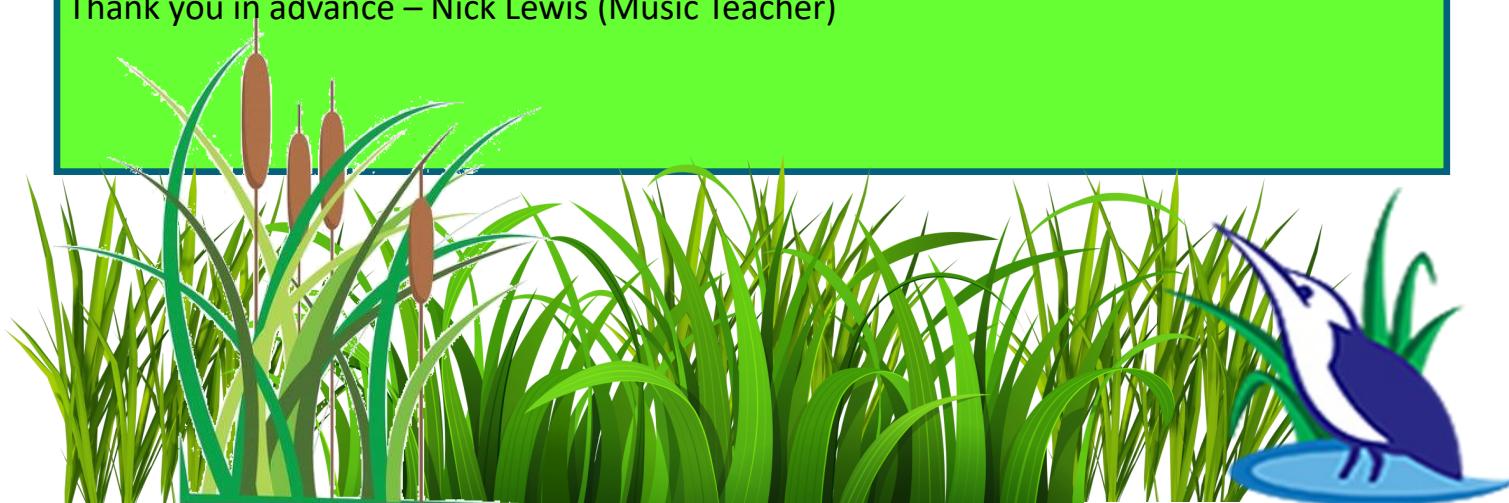
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Musical Instrument Drive

As our music program at Bittern Primary School continues to expand, we are also looking to expand our collection of musical instruments. Do you have an old guitar or keyboard no longer being used? Maybe a drum kit collecting dust in the shed? Perhaps you have some kid's percussion instruments your child has outgrown. Strings, percussion, wind, brass, electronic - whatever you have, we can use it! Even if it is broken, we would still love to have a look. Please bring anything you may wish to donate to the office or to the Library/Music Room.



Thank you in advance – Nick Lewis (Music Teacher)



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments; your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2019.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit
www.education.vic.gov.au/csef



A few notes..

Please be advised that there are no hot dogs tomorrow (31st January). Hot dogs and Zooper Doopers will re-commence next week on **Friday 7th February**.



Reminder that swimming carnival and swimming lessons will commence this term. More information to follow. Stay tuned!



A gentle reminder to pop into the office to pay the balance for your child's essential items. If you are on a payment plan, please continue regular payments. Thank you :)

