



Dear Parents,

As many of you would be aware, there have been some updates from the Department of Health and the Education Department in regards to taking necessary precautions in slowing the transmission of COVID-19. Outlined below is the key information and the response we have taken as a school.

Attendance at school

On Sunday 15 March, the Prime Minister introduced measures placed on international arrivals into Australia. This means a mandatory 14-day self-isolation requirement has been placed on all international arrivals into Australia. This also applies to all parents/carers, contractors, visitors and volunteers on school sites.

At present, schools are operating as usual but taking some extra precautions to minimise the chance of transmission. Students who are unwell **should not** attend school but otherwise, the advice is that they should attend. As staff are still planning and delivering a classroom program, there is limited opportunity for them to provide home packages for those who decide to keep their children at home.

Staff are working hard to prepare for the possibility of school closures in the future. Should this happen, our main form of communication will be through **Connect**. We urge all parents to ensure that they have logged into the platform using the 'P number' sent out earlier in the year to ensure they will have access to classroom communications.

Mass Gatherings and Social Distancing

The Australian Government has also announced that all organised, non-essential mass gatherings attended by more than 100 people (indoors) must be cancelled effective from Monday 16 March 2020.

As a result, we have **cancelled school Parent Assemblies**. This includes the 'Show and Tell Assembly' due to take place this Friday, the Achievers Assembly, The Easter Hat Parade, The Kindy Mingle and very sadly, the ANZAC Assembly though classroom based commemorations will still take place.

Final decisions on Edu Dance and the School Camp in Term 2 have **not been made yet**, but we ask parents to be aware that there is some likelihood that these events will not go ahead. Parents should hold off on making further camp payments and we will send confirmation on Edu Dance in the near future.

We are looking to restrict any unnecessary social contact. We are asking that **parents drop their children at the classroom door and avoid entering the classrooms** with their children unless it is essential. We are increasing our cleaning/disinfecting regime and the fewer hands on our desks and surfaces the better.



Recess and Lunch Break

We will be maintaining our current break times but are encouraging students to maintain some social distancing. While students sit to eat lunch we will separate year levels into separate areas. There is no need to impose any further restrictions on play areas.

Hygiene Measures

In response to Health Department of WA information around hand hygiene we have implemented a number of strategies to proactively protect against the occurrences of Covid19 in the school.

- “Hand washing” posters have been put around the school to draw the attention of staff and students to personal hygiene.
- Teachers have stressed the hand hygiene message. Children have watched the hand washing video (or had lessons with their teacher) to demonstrate correct procedures to maintain hand hygiene.
- Additional soap supplies/hand sanitiser have been put into all student toilets and classrooms across the school. Children are required to sanitise their hands whenever entering or leaving the classroom.
- Cleaning staff have increased the frequency of cleaning/disinfecting desks, light switches, door handles, etc during their cleaning shift each day. Extra cleaning staff have been employed to help ensure that all classroom surfaces are disinfected.
- If you are sending money with your child to purchase goods from the canteen, we advise that you send them with the correct amount. This will help to reduce contact with change that was held by others.

The conditions we find ourselves in are very unique. We are obliged to take our advice and act in accordance with the directives from the Department of Health, The Chief Medical Officer and the Department of Education. We will continue to provide the best possible education we can for our students whilst complying with Government policy. The current focus is on minimising and preventing transmission and working towards being well prepared in the event that we need to close. Parents can assist by continuing to have calm conversations with their children and reinforcing the messages outlined here.

Kind regards

Mike Black