

Dear Parents,

Once again, we are reminded that a lot can change in two weeks. You will know that last Friday the Premier announced all Western Australian public schools will be open for Term 2 **from Wednesday, April 29th**. Whilst there may be varying thoughts and opinions on this decision, we are moving forward with our planning, embracing the opportunity to have students return to school.

We are now working to ensure planning and communication to our school community is clear and succinct. Please keep in mind the way schools were anticipating to operate in Term 2 is now completely different. Schools right across the state had planned for 'at home learning' and we now will modify these plans for 'at school learning'. As this situation evolves, and while we work out the proportion of students attending, I will outline our planning for the first two weeks of school as it stands at the moment. There are many considerations to make and I acknowledge not all questions will be answered.

- Firstly, Mullaloo Beach Primary School will be open for all parents and carers who choose to send their children, regardless of year level. Students at school will be taught based on the planning teachers prepared last term.
- Monday the 27th is the ANZAC Day public holiday followed by Tuesday being a pupil free day allowing staff to finalise teaching and learning for the first 2 weeks of term. Students return, Wednesday, 29 April.
- Our survey suggested that a significant number of students will be attending and therefore the teacher's obligations returns to delivering a face to face teaching program to those students who are in attendance. Those students who will continue to be learning from home will have access to the materials the teachers prepared last term for the first two weeks of term. The Department of Education is currently preparing home packages that can be accessed for students who will be remaining at home in the longer term. I will give details of how to access these resources in a later communication.
- It is important to note that teachers are unable to deliver a face-to-face curriculum as well as run home learning in the way we envisaged last term. Those students learning from home will not have the degree of interaction with their teachers as anticipated.
- Parents are also reminded that some staff, due to their own personal circumstances, may be absent of a period of time, and relief staff may need to be employed. Also, depending on numbers, classes may be combined (or split) to ensure efficient use of our resources and to allow an even distribution of students across the school. **We have no indication, at the moment, whether this will be necessary.**
- The Government has also announced that **parents must not enter the school grounds when dropping off or picking up students**. This ruling does not come from the school and we ask that all parents, whether you agree or not, to follow the procedures that are outlined below. (Drop off and Pick up).

Our planning with this aspect is designed to ensure the safety of our students and hopefully to keep the inconvenience to a minimum.

Hygiene and Social Distancing

- When at school, all students will hand sanitise before entering and leaving the class, as well as during class time. Hand soap and paper towel will be freely available. New guidelines, just released today from the Health Department have stated that the 1.5m distancing is not required for school children. Nevertheless, we will be encouraging social distancing and arranging our classrooms in a way that will maximise distancing. This is not always easy in a classroom.
- Our cleaning will be increased throughout the day, including high touch surfaces and some playground equipment. We will have a cleaner on site all day, sanitising these areas as well as toilets regularly.
- There remains a ban on excursions, incursions, carnivals, assemblies, camps, bands, choirs and additional sporting programs.
- The canteen will remain closed until further notice.

We will review all arrangements frequently and adjust as needed. That said, “school is open for all to attend”. The Health Department assures us all schools are safe places for children. This is the premise that all decision making is based on, and as I have mention in many of my communications, we are obliged to follow the directives and advice from the State Government, The Education Department and the Health Department. We are advised that there will be a review of these arrangements in the lead up to Week 3 and any adjustments will be made based on health advice and infection trends across the community.

Drop off and Pick up

As mentioned, the Government has announced that parents and carers will not be permitted on the school grounds during drop off and pick up. While this is very “un-Mullaloo Beach” we have made some preliminary plans so that these times are as smooth as possible. We will adjust plans as needed and to incorporate contingencies such as ‘wet weather’. For this to work smoothly, it is important to follow the directions below.

Drop offs

- **Students from Year 2-6** can be dropped off at the footpath as usual and they can make their own way to class. Classrooms will be open at 8.30 for students to enter directly from drop off. Parents of Year 2 students may bring their children to the vegetable patch if they are anxious or you have walked to school. However, given the likelihood of traffic congestion, it is preferable for parents to take the “Kiss and Drive” approach.

- **Year 1 Students** will meet their teacher at the circular bench seat outside the Administration Block. The teacher will be there from 8.30. You can bring your child to this point to say farewell but please move off straight away.
- **Pre-primary and Kindy children are a little trickier.** We have designated three drop off points.
 - **Kindy-** By the flagpole.
 - **PP16-** By our new school signage the front of the school
 - **PP17-** At the double gates on West View Boulevard. **(See map)**

At these points, there will be a staff member to accept the children and move them straight into class. Drop-off will need to be between 8.30-8.50. Late children should be brought to the front office.

- Please do not use this time to talk to teachers as their attention must be on supervision. Messages should be emailed.

Pick-up

- For those children who normally meet parents at their car or make their own way home should continue to do this.
- Parents who usually collect their children from the classroom should pre-arrange a meeting place for their children. Choosing one of the four areas below is recommended.

1. The vegetable garden.
2. The grass area near the staff car park.
3. The area near the bike rack opposite Room 11.
4. The Junior oval.

It is important that your children are told where you will be waiting for them.

- Kindy, Pre-primary and Year 1. Teachers will bring classes out to the same area as drop-off and release children directly to parents. This will be done at 2.50pm to enable parents collect their children and still have time to meet their other children.

The school office will remain closed until Tuesday morning at 11am. It is important that between 8am and 11am I have the opportunity to discuss school operational matters with all staff. Therefore, phones will not be answered until after 11am.

I would like to thank the whole Mullaloo Beach Primary School community for your amazing support. Since the outbreak of COVID 19, arrangements have been constantly changing for educators and we are doing our best to ensure we support our students and community. Remember, we are all battling with this uncertainty. By continuing to look out for each other and following the rules I am hoping some of the restrictions will ease before too long. I am very much looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Kind regards

Michael Black
Principal

24th April

