

Welcome to Week 7 Term 1 2020

Wednesday 18th March 2020

COVID – 19 Update

As you know this is very difficult time for us all. We are in a situation where it is very important we keep up to date on the latest information in relation to the Coronavirus. I have communicated with the school community each time the Department of Education have issued their latest advice and provided as much information as possible to the community. At this stage the Government is keeping schools open. However, parents are free to make their own decision as to whether their child attends school and some of our families have chosen to keep their children at home.

While the school remains open our focus remains on the teaching and learning in the classroom. We are not able to provide individual packages of work to each family as they decide to keep their children home and the latest advice from the Department of Education confirms this. However, should the school be closed or the whole education system closed down, then we will be able to provide more detailed packages and information which will be distributed via Connect. Today on Connect we are providing some generic guidelines and recommendations should you decide to keep your child home while the school is still open. There are so many opportunities for learning at home and I am sure many of you who have chosen to keep your children at home realise this. This is a very personal decision and we must all respect people's

rights to make the decision they believe is right for their family. Meanwhile, until told otherwise, my focus and the focus of my staff will be on the children who are attending. I will communicate via Connect every time I get an update from the Department and in the event of information related to a closure I will text you to advise you of this.

Please note the key facts and messages below:

- The Harmony Day Assembly and Perth Symphony Orchestra performance on Thursday is cancelled. **However, our students are still encouraged to wear orange and the teachers will have a Harmony Day focus in their rooms.**
- All community assemblies and faction assemblies have been cancelled for both Term 1 and Term 2.
- All interschool sporting carnivals including this week's BASSA carnival and the interschool swimming carnival have also been cancelled.
- Students will still eat their lunch and play in the same areas they usually do, as we have plenty of space to spread out. We have less than 500 students in our school. Please remind your child not to share food.
- Teachers are reinforcing personal hygiene and we ask you to do this at home.

- **Please don't send your children to school when they are sick with cold and flu symptoms.** We will be calling you to pick them up. Given the current situation we cannot have students coughing, sneezing and blowing noses. Staff are required to stay home when they get sick and relief is hard to find so please don't let your child make our staff or other students sick.
- Please strictly adhere to the self isolation directives in relation to individuals returning home from overseas. This is so very important when parents are returning home and living in the family home.
- Generic guidelines for work packages are attached to this Connect notice. However, should the school close you will have access to more support resources through Connect. So if you don't already use Connect, and you are reading a paper copy of this newsletter, please download the app and make sure you know how to use this app. Our school website contains detailed information in relation to using Connect.
- Your children need your support and understanding at this time. The constant media exposure and talk at home can be very overwhelming for children and could lead to anxiety. I encourage you to reassure your children you will look after them. This link may be helpful for you.
- The WA Department of Health has updated information including frequently asked questions about the novel coronavirus. To view this information, you can visit www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus

- You can also call the national Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080
- School Banking has been temporarily paused from the 20th March until the start of Term 2. Please don't bring your banking to school on Friday.



I would like to acknowledge my staff who are working through very challenging times. They continue to provide exemplary student focussed teaching for your children every day. They too have families they are concerned about and also considerations for their own health. We understand everyone is a little anxious but please be kind to our teachers and support staff. They really do deserve your respect.

Kind regards
Jayne

Jayne Ebsworthy
Principal

