

Welcome to Week 8 Term 1 2019

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### What a week it has been!

It has been a big week for both parents and staff with much uncertainty in the sense that we have been hearing conflicting advice about school closures. I do understand and respect this has been very difficult for parents to make a decision as to whether to send their children to school or keep them home.

I think our school community has done very well and parents have made their own decisions based on the information available and their own family situations. We currently have about 50% of our children attending and as far as I know people have been very respectful of individual's decisions. Thank you for the many positive messages and encouragement to me and my staff at this time. We really appreciate our caring community.



I now ask you to read the latest update carefully given to me from the Department this afternoon and carefully consider what is the best option for your child and your family moving forward.

My staff don't have a choice and there are 'no work from home' options. They too have elderly parents, children in schools and unwell relatives. **However, as you know they are a very professional and caring group of people who are committed to their role as a public school employee and they will continue to provide exemplary teaching and quality care, while our government makes the choice to keep our schools open.**

To support parents who are already working with their children at home, and also those of you considering taking your child out of school we have made the decision to send home a more detailed work at home package. **By the end of tomorrow each classroom teacher will send out a Connect notice containing a two week work package.** This package, together with the generic packages sent out previously through Connect and the Department's 'Learning from Home' website <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/learning-at-home> will support parents to feel more confident to keep their children at home.

For those of you are intending to keep your children at school I would like to make the following very important points.

- **Your child must be well when they come to school.** We are sending home children when they are unwell with coughs and colds and we have the support of the Department of Education and the Health Department to do this. We are trying really hard to keep our school cold and flu free and we need your help. **This is the one area we have not had the full support of the parent community and I appeal to parents to keep unwell children at home.**

- Please ensure your family follows carefully the required self isolation requirements as outlined by the government. See the latest border control requirements listed below.

- Please tell us if you decide to keep your children home. Please advise us by email [Baldivisgardens.ps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Baldivisgardens.ps@education.wa.edu.au)

**These are the new key messages from the Department of Education today:**

- All travel in and out of Western Australia has been banned as of 1.30pm on Tuesday, 24 March 2020.
- Unless exempted, arrivals from interstate by road, rail, air and sea will be ordered to self-isolate for 14 days.
- Given the extensive media coverage, some children are already aware of the impact of the virus and will pick up on the concerns and anxiety of others. This could be through listening and observing what is happening online, at home and school. The Learning at home website

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/learning-at-home/support-for-children-and-young-people>

provides advice and resources for parents and carers, educators and students. This includes a wide range of resources and information related to the impact of COVID-19 on students' health and wellbeing and the impact on families.

- This link is provided by the Department of Education to support parents and carers at this time and I am sure you are finding many support recommendations online and through social media.  
[Support for parents and carers](#)
- As per advice received from the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC), **students must bring their own individual water bottles that can be filled from the fountain as necessary.** This will reduce the need for students to

drink directly from fountains. Please make sure your child has a water bottle and please remind them from home the importance of not drinking from the water fountains.

- **Our library has closed and no more books will be going home.** If you currently have a school library book at home it may remain at home but we would love you to return the books when this is all over.

- No more icy poles on a Wednesday. Icy poles didn't happen today due to the concern with the exchange of coins. As you know we have had to revert to a cashless society.

Yes, lots of things have changed and it is a challenging time and a very sad time for everyone. However, just as we see in our gardens at home things go very quiet over the Winter, but the Spring does come, and with it lots of colour and life. Things are going to be very quiet in 'The Garden' over the Winter but everyone will be back in the Spring.

I do want to acknowledge and thank Paul our caretaker and our AMAZING cleaning team. I think we have the cleanest school in the state. As a PPP school this cleaning team is provided by Spotless and they always keep our school spotlessly clean. However, since COVID-19 they have gone above and beyond the call of duty. We are so fortunate to have these people working in our school.

I will keep you in touch with any updates, which could be as soon as tomorrow. I am aware both State and Federal Cabinets are meeting tonight and this may bring some clarity to the position of schools moving forward.

Stay well and please take social distancing very seriously. Life is too precious.

Jayne

**Jayne Ebsworthy**  
**Principal**