



2021 Newsletter - Edition 1

I would like to welcome all our families back for the new school year. It is also wonderful to welcome the many new families who will be joining us for the first time in 2021.

As the New Year begins we continue to grow in student numbers and we are closing in on having 500 children; up from 360 in 2020. This year we have 120 Kindy children coming to school for the very first time. This is a large number and we look forward to getting to know these children and helping them have the best start possible to their schooling. With the increasing number of children enrolling, there are very few spaces available in the classes as they are currently structured. In fact, there are only six spaces across our eleven Year 1 to 6 classes. Many of these classes are already at the maximum number of children permissible as outlined by the Department of Education. As the year progresses it is likely that the school will once again have to restructure. This occurred a few times in 2020 and is common for new schools as they grow. With many houses starting to be built and completed in our catchment area, there will be more children enrolled. This increase in numbers is being further impacted as families return to Western Australia from other states and from overseas. Although a restructure and moving of classes is not ideal, it is a reality that the school is prepared for and can easily manage. At this stage we have a spare classroom (the music room) with adequate furniture if we need to create a new class.

As the number of students at the school increases, so does the number of staff being employed. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to see a small bio for each of our new staff members. In the meantime, I would like to welcome the following permanent new staff members:

School Officers – Mrs Jo Marwick and Mrs Natalie Leggett.

Classroom Teachers – Miss Emma Williams, Ms Jacquie Hollier, Miss Kelsey Leach, Mrs Jessica Stockden, Mrs Kelley Watson, Mrs Tania Druzianich and Mrs Melissa Kingston

Education Assistants – Mrs Naoko Clarke and Miss Kara Russell

There are also a number of fixed-term staff joining CVPS this year:

Classroom Teachers – Mrs Tania Lorschy, Miss Cassandra Reichenberg, Mrs Natasha Collins and Miss Leigh Jacques

Education Assistants – Ms Wendy Blackwood

COVID- 19 restrictions

Government schools are still required to implement the Phase 4 restrictions that were in place towards the end of 2020. All school will be provided with an up-date during the first week of February and notified if there will be any further relaxations of the current restrictions.

The most significant impact for CVPS is the number of adults allowed in classrooms/buildings at any one time. To manage this the school will continue with the policy where parents are not able to enter classrooms during the day with their children (unless invited by the class teacher as a parent helper). As we all saw last year during the height of the restrictions, our children proved to be very independent and fully capable to enter their class by themselves and prepare for the day.

First day of school – 1st February 2021

Our first day of the year will be very similar to how it was organised in 2020. Throughout the day our staff will be engaging the children in numerous activities that focus on getting to know individuals



better; developing a classroom community; outlining classroom and school expectations; preparing work/learning areas; establishing class routines; and learning/remembering different games played throughout the school. Our big focus is bringing children together as a group. This will mean that throughout the day children will be participating in different activities around the school, both in and outside of their classroom.

Classrooms will open at 8:15 am and children will start entering. Please listen to the classroom teacher who will outline what needs to be done with bags and personal equipment. Your child will not immediately need their books and writing equipment. These will be put in the appropriate places as the day unfolds, under teacher direction.

At 8:30 am there will be a quick welcome by the principal (Mr Craig) for those parents who wish or can attend. It is acknowledged that many parents need to leave straight away for work and other family/personal reasons.

The children starting Kindy will have a similar day to those in Pre-primary to Year 6, however it will be modified to suit their age and the fact it will be their first day of formal schooling. As with other year groups, parents are not able to enter the Kindy classrooms. To support the children transitioning into their classrooms, there will be additional staff at the start of the day to assist. It is recommended that you discuss this arrangement with your child prior to the first day to ease with transitions.

Parent classroom welcome and information sessions

CVPS is hoping, and planning, to have classroom welcome and school information sessions for parents. These will include information session about school approaches and learning strategies. These sessions, and the number of people able to attend at any one time, will depend on the restrictions that will be required to be in place due to COVID-19. Hopefully in Weeks 3 and 4 we will be able to conduct parent-teacher welcome meetings. More information will be sent to parents once there is further clarification from the Department of Education relating to COVID-19 restrictions.

There will be parent information sessions in the first half of this term on school's approach to literacy, numeracy and behaviour.

These are tentatively planned to be held on the following days and times:

- Behaviour (Positive Behaviour Support) – Tuesday 16 February at 5:30 pm in the undercover area (Koorongkoorl Miya).
- Literacy – Wednesday 24 February at 5:30 pm in the undercover area (Koorongkoorl Miya).
- Numeracy – Wednesday 3 March at 5:30 pm in the undercover area (Koorongkoorl Miya).

School board members

There are still two (2) school board positions that need to be filled. We are specifically looking to identify parents who are representative of families that were born overseas, or have moved to Australia. In particular, we hoping to identify parents who are originally from the Sub-continent, S.E. Asia or Africa. If you are interested in filling a board position, or would like some more information please feel free to contact the principal (George Craig) at the school.

On behalf of the staff at Caversham Valley PS I once again welcome all our students and families and we look forward to an exciting year of learning and development.

George Craig
Principal
25/01/21