

Dear parents and carers,

Without doubt you would have seen, or heard of, our Premier's announcement about learning in WA Public Schools for the first 3 weeks of Term 2. Like all of you, the announcement on Friday was the first time Principals and school staff heard of the arrangements.

On Friday afternoon at 3pm all Principals were invited to attend a Webex online meeting with our Director General Lisa Rodgers. The significant focus of this was to outline the additional cleaning that is required throughout the teaching day which will supplement the existing morning and afternoon cleaning. Over the second week of this holiday break I will be finalising the employment/additional hours for a cleaner, as well as sourcing the additional cleaning products required to meet the Premier's directions.

On Monday school leaders should be provided with more information relating to the learning requirements for all students, social distancing expectations for students inside and outside classrooms, and adjustments to the school day to support this.

At this present time the following is what we do definitely know:

1. It is each individual family's choice as to whether their child attends school. As parents you need to decide whether you feel it is safe or in your best interest to have your child attend school.
2. Parents, carers, and older siblings who do not attend the school are not allowed to enter the school site. This means that children must be dropped off and picked up from outside the fences and enter the school and their classes by themselves. This is in place for all children, Kindy to Year 6.

To make this possible, safe, and not breach industrial agreements on staff work conditions, there will be changes to when children will be able to enter the school site, how they will be dropped off, and how they will be picked up. This will all need to be achieved while maintaining the 1.5m social distancing expectations.

I will clarify these procedures before the end of the second week of these school holidays. However, do not expect your child to be able to enter the school site before 8:20 am.

At this point in time I have not been in communication with our before and after school care provider (OSHClub). They will be required to follow all of the procedures outlined by our Government relating to parents not entering the school site. OSHClub will communicate to families who use the service what their procedures will be.

3. For families who decide it is in their best interest to keep their children at home, schools have been informed that there is a requirement for a comprehensive learning program to be provided. We have been given very little to no guidance on what is expected. This will come early next week. What I do know is that teachers will be asked to modify what has already



been prepared and they will only have a single day to achieve this. Many have already started to think about and make changes, but are still waiting on clearer and more definite information.

The announcement made on Friday was in essence very different to what schools and staff were told just before the school holidays began. The message has changed from the Government strongly requesting parents keep their children home if they can; to it now being your choice whether they attend school or not.

The expectation of what teachers and staff are to provide either face to face, or for home learning has also changed. With the amazing amount of dedication and work our staff showed during the last week of Term 1 at least has us in a position to meet these new requirements quickly. However, I feel that achieving this in a single day is not possible, so please be patient and everything will be provided to you very quickly.

The biggest challenges that we will have is the meeting of the social distancing requirements, constant cleaning requirements, and catering for the number of children who may or may not attend face to face.

Our staff have always done their best to meet the distancing requirements. The reality is that it is very difficult to control the movement of children every minute of every day. The younger they are the harder it is. Without doubt parents have been experiencing this themselves over the last few weeks. We will continue to do our best.

Before the beginning of the new school term, myself and my Deputy Principals (Narelle Morisey and Sharon Walton) will contact each family by phone to ascertain whether you are planning to send your child to school or keep them at home. A decision from you is very important as it will assist us in adjusting learning programs once again; organise the physical layout of classrooms to meet student numbers and distancing; determine if any changes are required for recess and lunch breaks (i.e. staggering each one); and how weekly communication will be conducted with child remaining at home. We will begin to make these phone calls on Wednesday 22 April and Thursday 23 April.

Through all of what has occurred during Term 1, and now further changes to the beginning of Term 2, as a school we have always enjoyed positive and clear communication with our families. This has made it easy for everyone. As your Principal I could not be more grateful for your support and understanding.

I am also blessed to have a staff who are amazing at working together and making sure everything was to be in place for day one of Term 2. Some of the learning program videos created were exceptional. Hopefully all that hard work and time has not been wasted by these new expectations.

Over the next few days please consider what is best for your child and family, it will be supported by us either way. Your assistance in making a decision will enable us to make the start of Term 2 as smooth and successful as practical under the circumstances.

George Craig
Principal
19 April 2020