

Supporting our School

As a staff we feel privileged to be a part of the Willetton Primary School community. We have been buoyed by the many positive messages and support from our parents over the past couple of weeks. Thank you!

The COVID 19 virus is creating an ever changing landscape in the community and I'm sure we have all been impacted in some way already. It's unknown territory we are entering and at this time our focus should be on our health and the wellbeing of those closest to us.

In a large organisation such as WPS, it is important that we stay abreast of all of the current information and follow all directives from the Department of Education and Health. At a system level our Department has staff highly trained and skilled in risk management so we are maintaining regular communication to be informed but not alarmed.

As previously stated, we will remain open with Business *almost as* usual although we are mindful of a possible closure. This will only happen under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer.

Work Packages

At this stage the school will not be providing homework packages for students. All staff are focusing their energy on minimising the risk to students attending school and the continuity of their classroom teaching and learning.

Home Learning Programs

The Department of Education is working to provide online access to resources for parents, caregivers and students. This will be through the Learning at home website. The website is now available and resources will continue to be added over the coming weeks.

To access this support, please go to the DOE Learning at home website:

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/learning-at-home>

Social Distancing

Parents are to drop their children off as outlined below and leave the school grounds promptly.

- K, PP please drop your children off at the classroom door and then leave. As you do this, please demonstrate social distancing - staying at least 1.5m from staff and other adults and their children. Please also demonstrate social distancing when collecting students.
- Y1 - Y3 please drop your children off near their classrooms and send them in independently. As you do this, please demonstrate social distancing - staying at least 1.5m from staff, other adults and their children. Please also demonstrate social distancing - staying at least 1.5m from other adults and their children when collecting student.
- Y4 - Y6 please consider using a kiss and drive option to drop off and pick up your children. Should you be on the school grounds, please demonstrate social distancing - staying at least 1.5m from staff, other adults and their children.

Keeping Our Community Updated

The Executive Team will:

- Provide families and staff with regular COVID-19 WA Department of Education updates.
- Monitor and support student and staff wellbeing.
- Minimise disruptions to teaching and learning as much as possible.
- Maintain routines as much as possible.
- Continue to prepare the school for the possibility of a different mode of educational delivery in the near future.

The classroom teachers will:

- Maintain regular teaching and learning routines as much as possible.
- Post two Connect notices per week to maintain relationships and provide information on the teaching and learning programs in their classroom.
- Continue to teach our children good hygiene habits, including using the inner elbow to sneeze or cough into if they can't grab a tissue in time, washing hands regularly with soap and water and keeping hands away from faces as well as physically distancing themselves from one another wherever practicable.

We are a strong and resilient community and together we will get through this. All students who have been absent, are welcome to return to school at any time while our schools remain open. However, I also acknowledge, that as parents, you know what your children need best, and all choices are respected.

Kind regards,

Heather McNeil
Principal
24 March 2020