

Keeping you in the loop...

19 March 2020

Good morning parents and carers

I would like to thank you for your continued sense of calm as we manage the COVID -19 situation we are currently facing. It is really important that we keep as positive as possible to ensure our students levels of anxiety are kept to a minimum.

As a school we are continuing to maintain very strict hygiene practices which include continuous education about handwashing, reducing face contact, cough etiquette and the correct disposal of tissues, hand sanitising every time a student or teacher enters the class, the use of antibacterial spray on all resources at the end of each day, additional soap in toilets, doors and windows kept open as much as possible, the eating of lunch and afternoon tea outdoors, social distancing measures at mat time and when lining up and the cancellation or postponing of any non-essential events.

At present every education decision is being made with students and school staff front of mind and acting on the advice of the Chief Health Officer. The Chief Health Officer is a member of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) and they have adopted a uniform national position on the issue of school operations in relation to the community transmission of COVID-19. All chief health officers from around Australia agree that there is no need to close schools as a pre-emptive measure at this point.

Previous work suggests that the potential reduction in community transmission from pre-emptive school closures may be offset by the care arrangements that are in place for children who are not at school, for example if front line health and emergency services staff cannot attend work because their children are not at school. Children may require care from vulnerable grandparents or may continue to associate (and transmit infection) outside of school settings.

Allowing schools to stay open, but with clear guidelines, will assist in the safety and well-being of our students and staff, continue the focus on learning and allow a regular routine in this difficult time. School closures may still be considered later in the outbreak, in anticipation of a peak in infection rates. Short term reactive school closures may also be warranted to allow contact tracing and cleaning to occur.

If you choose to keep your children at home during this time it is your right to do so. Please let us know that you are keeping them home due to your concern about Coronavirus. The school will not be providing work for students who are being kept at home, however the class Statement of Intent will continue to be posted on Connect and this has the learning intentions to be covered over the next 2-3 weeks.

If you have family arriving from overseas we ask that they follow the required self-quarantine process to reduce the likelihood of transmission. For detailed information on this process please visit https://healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus

Stay positive, calm and healthy!

Bec Burns
Principal