

5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you all well and a sincere thank you all again for **your most wonderful support** during the past few months. While there is still a long journey ahead, with your continued **cooperation and vigilance**, we hope the way forward is a positive, safe and healthy one for all members of our community.



As you will no doubt be aware, the State Government has announced it will further relax restrictions in line with phase three of the COVID-19 WA Roadmap to Recovery, effective **Saturday 6 June**.

The Premier has announced that **parents and caregivers are allowed to enter the school property from this Monday 8 June to drop off and collect their children only**. This announcement also comes with some conditions that we ask all parents to read through carefully:

- Parents on site must observe a **2 square metre** social distancing rule at all times.
- Parents **are not permitted to enter classrooms** at the beginning or end of the day until further notice.
- While parents can make an appointment to meet with a teacher, our preference would be that you arrange to speak with teachers about student progress **by telephone** for the remainder of the term.
- Parents of **after school music students** are now permitted on site, as long as you observe the social distance requirements. Our preference would be that you wait in the car until it is time for the lesson and collect children after their lesson.
- Parents can make an appointment to visit the **Uniform Shop** as of next week - see booking details below.

Drive-through - please read carefully!

- We would expect that the only parents we will typically see on site, as of Monday 8th June, will be **Kindy and PP parents** that are picking up or dropping off their children. We strongly encourage all parents of children from Years 1-6 to **continue to use the drive-through each morning and afternoon** so that we have fewer parents onsite at this time of transition and ongoing social distancing.

Anecdotally, we have observed that all children from K-6 have **risen to the challenge** of the drive through change over the past five weeks. Staff have all relayed how **happy, confident and settled children have been** facing any fears they have had and relying on themselves to exit their car and make their way confidently and independently to their classroom.

"It has been so encouraging to see the Year Fives independently organise themselves for their school day. Since using drive-through, many of our students have taken this opportunity to arrive

at their class on their own, unpack their school bag and get into the classroom early and independently. We have seen an increase in organisation and growth in maturity in our students and we are looking forward to further progress in the months ahead! We thank our families for their support by using drive through during this time and it would be great to see all of our students continuing to arrive at and leave school this way for the rest of the year!"

"To see the Year One children get out of their car, confident and happy, and make their way to the classroom all on their own, has been very special. While we have not been surprised, we have celebrated every Year One child as they have demonstrated their ability to independently make their way to class each morning all on their own! We think it has been a really fantastic time to develop their independence and self belief."

Resuming Normal School Hours

- Children are not to enter the school grounds **until 8.20am** - this is when a teacher is on duty in the undercover area.
- Children **Years 1-6** who arrive prior to 8.30am are to sit in the **U/C area** with a book.
- **At 8.30am** all children are to go to their classrooms to prepare for the day.
- **8.40am** is the official start to the school day and all children should have arrived by this time.
- **3.00pm** is when **drive through pick up** commences in the afternoon for Years 1-6 and this finishes by 3.20pm.

The Back Gate

- Please note that the back gate **will remain closed until further notice**.

Amherst Road Side Gate

- The Amherst gate will be open and staffed from 8.30am until 8.40am in the morning and open from 2.40pm to 3.20pm (staffed from 3pm to 3.20pm) in the afternoon for children who are walking, scooting or riding.

The Parish Office Gate

- This gate will also be open for those families who live close by and are walking to school to enter and leave by.

Cooperation is Essential

- Cars are asked to not park along Amherst Road on the verge as it is dangerous and unnecessary- please park on a **side road** and walk.

K/PP Parents and Caregivers

Morning Routine

- **Kindy and PP children** are to be dropped **at the internal Kindy gate just outside Kindy** in the mornings. Staff members will be there to assist children to their respective classrooms.

Afternoon Routine

Parents are reminded:

- To please observe social distancing guidelines at this time.
- To ideally wait in the car until as close to 2.40pm as possible.
- At 2.45pm you can collect children from the classroom as per usual, but are then to **exit via the large PP double gate** (facing the hall). This way there is a flow of parent traffic rather than congestion at the entry gate.

- Parents are to ensure that children **do not play on playground equipment** on the way out.
- We are sure that parents will all be naturally keen to catch up, however you are asked to please gather off-site at a coffee shop or at home, rather than on school grounds, especially while social distancing restrictions are still in place - thank you for your understanding.

Student Attendance

All students are required to attend school everyday, unless they are unwell.

If a child is Unwell

Students who are unwell should stay at home. Parents are asked to seek medical advice if their child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19. Normal processes for advising the school of a child's absence apply.

School Library

School libraries may now be accessed for up to 100 people in a shared library space. Children are reminded to please bring their library bag on the correct day.

Parent and caregiver meetings

Pre-arranged parent/caregiver meetings can proceed, adhering to physical distancing and hygiene protocols, however as per above it is preferred that these are conducted as a telephone conversation.

Cleaning

Cleaning guidelines are based on advice from the Department of Health. Increased cleaning is continuing in Term 2, with cleaners present throughout the school day to undertake a rigorous cleaning regime.

Remaining Prepared

In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19, any temporary school closure will be advised by the Department of Health and the school will enact its Six Step Response Plan in the event of a confirmed case.

Uniform Shop

Uniform shops are now able to be open to parents and caregivers where the school can assure adherence to **physical distancing** requirements of **2m2**, enhanced cleaning of used areas and minimise contact with the broader school population.

Parents and caregivers who need to visit our uniform shop are required to sign in, providing contact information in the event that this information is required by the Department of Health. Please note we will collect this information via our **Booking Website**.

To organise a visit to the Uniform Shop parents will need to book a **10 minute time slot** online.

Go to: www.schoolinterviews.com.au

The code : **6yxge** (this code will change weekly)

Uniform Shop Open: **Tuesdays and Thursdays**

8am - 9.00am

2.00pm - 3.00pm

For new families, the uniform shop is located **in the school hall**.

Please be aware that due to COVID -19, there is **limited stock in some sizes**.

We hope that by the end of the term all children will be back in their correct uniform - this includes hair accessories, socks, no nail varnish or additional jewelery and so on. Thanks for your support.

Office Message

If you need to collect your child early, or if you need to drop something off to the office, we continue to ask you to please email your class teacher and Admin with the details. Then phone the office upon arrival and staff will bring the child to your car.

Semester Reports

Semester reports go online on **Thursday 2nd July**. As per CEWA and State Government guidelines these will look slightly different from our normal reports because of the COVID-19 disruption to approximately eight weeks of learning time. There will be a **three point scale** rather than A-E grades and **one general comment** rather than learning area comments. While this report will certainly give parents some valuable information, you are reminded again that this is just one part of a much bigger picture and teachers will continue to communicate with you about your child's progress via work samples, seesaw posts; online portfolios; web posts, emails, phone calls and so on.

Purposeful Practice Grids

Homework Grids recommence next week. As you will recall they last for 2 weeks, so we have Grid 1 for Weeks 7 and 8 and Grid 2 for Weeks 9 and 10. Parents are asked to oversee, encourage and ensure that children are engaging and completing their homework to the very best standard they can.

A Final Note

This time of change and transition will require parents to continue to be very **mindful, patient and considerate of others** -

- ❖ during drive through;
- ❖ waiting in line at the uniform shop,
- ❖ waiting to collect children from classrooms
- ❖ communicating your needs with teachers and office staff.

If there is something that COVID-19 is hopefully reminding us all of is that some of the things we might have got frustrated by or short-tempered about in the past, can cause more harm than good. Staying calm, adopting a generous attitude and treating people kindly help to make our community the special place it is for children and families alike. Thank you for the way you are contributing positively each day, whether via email, phone call or face to face.

Teachers are working very hard and will continue to do so right up until the end of term. Every minute counts and after the disruption to children's learning, we are all very focused on identifying gaps, intervening as needed and providing students with every opportunity to flourish. Please avoid taking up your teacher's time unnecessarily. If it can be said in a short email or over the phone please do this. Rest assured we certainly want the same thing as you do - happy, confident, successful learners!

Take care everyone and have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely

Tania Thuijs

Principal

