



23rd March, 2020

Dear WESS Families

I hope you had a peaceful weekend and that you and your families are staying well!

A few more things to update you on:

Student attendance

As is always the case, I ask parents and caregivers to let our school know if your child will not be attending school, for how long and the reason why. If you choose to keep your child home due to concerns about COVID-19 you can be assured that you have made an acceptable decision.

You may have seen media reports last week that claim Education Queensland is 'cracking down' on parents who choose not to send their children to school due to COVID-19 concerns and that you are risking prosecution if you have made this decision. The Department of Education has assured all schools that this is incorrect.

Learning@home Resource

This morning I posted a link to learning@home on our school Facebook page. This platform was developed by our Department of Education and it includes curriculum resources for students to complete at their own pace. These resources were designed as a support tool for students to continue their learning and engage in familiar activities essential to their learning and wellbeing. Please note that some students may require support to read and understand instructions.

It is worth noting that the learning@home resources may not directly correlate with our current WESS units of work, even though both are based on the Australian Curriculum. Our WESS units are contextualized for our WESS students. It is best to check with your child about what they have been learning in their classroom to help navigate which are the best activities.

Please note that currently the WESS Teaching and Learning Team are developing our own version of "at home" curriculum resources, which will be linked to the WESS Whole School Curriculum Plan. The platforms we will use will be a combination of online and offline learning tools and tasks. These tasks will be presented in the form of a Daily/ Weekly Grid, similar in format to our Homework Grid. Our grids will allow for various home contexts and will be emailed to families in the event of school closure.

Social Distancing

As we navigate the challenging strategy of social distancing, we have made a few additional modifications to our daily life at WESS. I thank you in advance for your understanding that these measures are in place for the health and wellbeing of students and staff.

- WHERE POSSIBLE parents / carers are requested to "drop and go" in the morning thus reducing the number of adults on our campus for any extended length of time
- Students and parents / carers will be asked to leave the school grounds once the bell has gone in the afternoon
- Volunteers and class helper programs will cease until further notice. The only exception to this will be class swimming lessons, where only the required number of adults will be in attendance at the pool

- Measures to reduce the number of people coming through the front office have also been suggested via our school Facebook page – paying online as well as using Q-Parents / email / phone to report absences
- All after school hirers / programs will cease. The exception being P&C run programs – OSHC and swimming lessons
- Our library is closed, other than for class lessons

School Hygiene

I can assure you all that during this time we are paying close attention to the cleaning of our school. WESS has excellent cleaners and the department has provided them with additional advice on cleaning techniques since the onset of COVID-19.

To support this work the Government has also increased the amount of cleaning in Queensland state schools in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Our school has been provided with additional time for cleaners to enable them to pay extra attention to high touch point surfaces such as door handles, light switches, desks, toilets, taps and sinks.

In addition, we commissioned our pool provider to disinfect our WESS pool site over the weekend.

Thank you

Thank you so much for the continual stream of positive emails we are receiving. They really do help keep us buoyed in this challenging time.

We continue to take advice from Queensland Health in relation to this matter and the latest information is available on the Queensland Health website at www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19.

The feedback I am receiving is that you are appreciating the updates. Thank you for taking the time to read these important communications.

Below is the most wonderful picture from one of our Year 2 students. It is pure joy and further demonstrates why I love working with children.

Take care everyone

Kim McNamara
Principal

