

## Student Drop-off and Pick-up Arrangements

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for the support and understanding that you have shown for our arrangements for the start of Term Two. We have started with about 64% of the children attending, with 68% on Friday, and it is expected that this will continue to increase on Monday and through the coming week or two. It was great to see how happy the children were to be back at school and how much the staff were looking forward to seeing their smiling faces.

Our planning was not without some problems and I appreciated parent/carers' acceptance of the inevitable glitches – especially given the short time-frame we had to establish plans and get the information to parents. I apologise for bombarding you with the same information on Seesaw or Connect, via the Skoolbag App, an email, the school's web page and the P&C Facebook page – even so, not all parents were aware of our plans.

It was remiss of me to not give some background to why we were doing some of the things we are. I hope the following information helps:

- **Dropping and picking up children from the 'school gate'** – this is a directive from the government and the Department of Education and has been put in place to prevent large groups of adults being in a small space and not being able to practice social distancing requirements. It is also to reduce the exposure of staff to large numbers of other adults in the workplace. It means that parents/carers do not go to classrooms or come into the building areas. The attached map indicates where drop-off and pick-up points are around the school. We have put up tape as a visual reminder, but please note where it is and 'imagine' it is there if it is broken or missing. **Arriving** with your child (or them getting there by themselves) **should be timed between 8:30 and 8:50** so that we can be sure that someone will be in the classrooms. *If you need to pick up your child during the day for an appointment, please telephone the school (9721 2660) to let us know you are on your way and we will bring your child out to you at the front of the school.*
- **Staggered finishing times** – unlike the start of school, the end of the day sees parents and carers all at the school at the same time. This creates congestion and, again, impacts upon people's ability to maintain social distancing. For this reason, we have put the staggered finishing times in place so that there is less crowding and more available parking. Remember:
  - **Kindy and Pre-Primary children (and their older siblings) leave at 2:30;**
  - **Year 1 and 2 (and their older siblings) leave at 2:45; and,**
  - **Years 3 to 6 finish at 3:00.**

**It is intended that these staggered finishing times will remain in place whilst the 'school gate' requirement continues to be policy or we find a need to change it.**

This arrangement will only work if parents/carers pick up their children and leave and do not arrive early to do this (except for the first group of K and P adults). Older siblings are meant to be with the younger child when you pick them up (we need to work on this). Please make sure that your child knows where you want them to go to be picked up. Parents/Carers also need to make sure that if someone else is going to pick up your child (Grandparent, relative, nanny, friend) that you have made them aware of the no-entry requirement and the designated pick-up points.

- **Children who are unwell** – if your child is feeling unwell or is sick, they **must not come to school**. Given the times and circumstances, other children and parents/carers will be hyper-vigilante about their child catching something and your child may become ostracised by their peers. Even coughs

and sniffles can lead to this happening. Please remember that sick is sick and children who are sick should not be at school.

- **Drink fountains** – a reminder that these are meant to fill water bottles for the children. This means that all children require a water bottle at school. It is suggested that they leave their water bottle in their bag at the end of the day so that they will always have one at school.
- **Social distancing for students** – as I have previously advised parents and carers, the social distancing requirements put upon us adults, does not apply to the children. However, the Department does not want schools having large numbers of children sitting close together in a closed, confined area. We will be able to continue Runners' Club as of Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> as it fits within the guidelines. The Winter Carnival will not go ahead and we are looking at the other Term 2 events we usually hold.
- **Whole school assemblies** – schools have been advised that whole school assemblies are not to be held for the foreseeable future. Our intention is to still hold assemblies, but without an audience. We plan to live stream the class item, merit certificates and messages to classrooms. The plan also includes giving parents/carers of the children in the host class a link to the telecast so that they can watch from home or work. As you would be aware, there can be a chasm of difference between intention and actuality when it comes to using technology.
- **Contacting the school** – please consider if any business you have with the school (payments, uniform orders, uniform sizing, etc.) can be managed via the telephone (9721 2660) or email ([bunbury.ps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:bunbury.ps@education.wa.edu.au)) rather than in person. This is part of minimising non-essential personnel coming into the school.
- **Attendance** – please remember to contact the school via the SkoolBag App to advise that your child is unwell, even if they are working from home. This allows us to enter the correct absence code. The Department is monitoring school attendance on a daily basis in a lead-up to the State government's review of schooling arrangements.

We are trying to get things back to the closest semblance of normal as we can within the guidelines which we are required to operate under.

Again, thank you for your understanding and support of the changes that we have made. I hope that we can continue to work our way through this together.

Kind Regards,  
Shane Doherty  
Principal  
May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020