

Good Afternoon Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you who have supported our school community by keeping your children home if they have shown symptoms of being unwell. If there is the slightest sign of your child having a fever, sore throat, coughing, sneezing, cold/flu like symptoms, vomiting etc. then your child **must** not attend school. This has never been more important than now in today's climate. I appreciate that members of our families have underlying health issues and are choosing to keep their children home. I fully understand this position.

At Duncraig we have put procedures into place to maximise the correct sanitation procedures. Last week we introduced hand sanitiser at the classroom doors for parents/adults who enter. To make sure our sanitiser lasts as long as possible and to reduce the risk of colds/etc. being spread, as of tomorrow, Tuesday 24 March, I ask that no parents enter classrooms. Please just drop your child off at the classroom doors. Another strategy we have introduced is we have re-arranged desks (where possible) in the classrooms so that there is space between students.

I would also like to thank the community for the support our Admin team, teachers and all support staff have received, especially in the last week. From the anonymous donor who supplied all school staff with a drink of their choice from the local coffee shop last week to the emails I have received.

"I just also would like to thank you, the teachers, EA's and admin team for being wonderful even in these times of uncertainty."

"I hope that you are all okay. We are very much thankful for all that you do for our kids and school community."

"I'm writing to thank you and your team of committed teachers, on behalf of this local community, for their commitment during these difficult times."

It is important for all of us to remember that our teachers/educators are parents too and have the same concerns as any other community member. So it is extremely important that we carry out and comply to all instructions given to us by the government departments.

For parents of students who are not attending school the Department of Education has provided resources for online learning at home. If you click on the link below you will be taken to the Department of Education's home page. Across the top of the page click on the "Learning at Home" tab to view resources for each year level. Any further updates regarding student learning at home will be provided as they arise. Also on the front of this web page the Department provides you with information on the Coronavirus.

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Regards

Lyn Dawson

23 March 2020

Principal

I have sent a further update to parents via Connect this afternoon. I will probably be sending another one out tomorrow Please have a read.

A few extra points for staff to consider;

- Be careful of the things you put or share on social media in terms of them mirroring our messages. We want to make sure that all support we offer is sustainable and within reasonable expectations of teachers.
- I certainly don't want parents to think that you are available to them 24/7 but we will set out what we think is reasonable support if the school closes.
- Try to stay positive and seek out a colleague or Peoplesense if you are feeling "wobbly". I will be.
- All performance and development meetings will be postponed until further notice.

Hygiene

- We will need to keep reminding, and supervising if possible, the handwashing before eating and equipment use, after toileting and if hands are visibly dirty. This is certainly a time when it's fine to nag...
- No students to touch interactive panels. This includes senior and junior laptops/iPads
- Shared devices will need to be taken out of circulation. We do not have the resources to be cleaning these after every use
- Maybe consider getting kids to choose their own song to sing or poem to say to measure the 20 seconds for good handwashing. Also to cover fronts, backs, in between fingers and around thumbs.
- Thanks for all the work you have done to keep our kids clean and germ free.
- The drink fountains could be an issue with some kids putting their mouths on them. Could we get students to fill up their bottles and use those as an alternative?

Social Distancing

- Please ask too many kids who are gathering together in one place to move apart.
- I see great examples of parents and teachers' role modelling the "four square meters per person" as far as possible.
- Consider seating arrangements, lining up and mat time alternatives.
- Keep doors open to flow the air.

Attendance

- Code for precautionary absences is R. If you are unsure then please still mark it U
- We are down to just over 60% attendance.

Online Learning

At this stage we do not send work home for those with precautionary absences but refer parents to our online programs.

www.education.wa.edu.au/

- Please do not send student text books home as these may become lost or work done incorrectly or at a rate that does not support learning. Once students return we will need these books to continue a sound program and we don't want students working in the texts at varying rates.
- The Department website based on SIDE programs should be up today and we can refer parents to this as well as the websites Carissa has listed.