

COVID 19 Virus
A message from school
Monday March 16th 2020.

Dear Aspiri Primary School Parents and Community,

I would like to advise you that, at this time there is no directive for schools to close and the situation is being monitored closely by the Departments of Health and Education. Should a decision be made, you will be given as much notice as possible in order to assist you in transition to a state of closure.

There is deep concern in our community for those abroad affected by the spread of Coronavirus and now more recently those affected here in Australia. At times like this, we are reminded of the need for compassion and perspective as we plan to meet the needs of our families and our community.

The purpose of this letter is to provide updated information and to confirm that Aspiri Primary School is developing contingency plans, with the support of the Department of Education should our community be required to cooperate with a partial or total shut down.

A 'shut down' is in effect a quarantine. Internationally, shut downs have occurred to slow the spread of the Coronavirus so as to reduce the immediate impact of this virus on a community, allowing the community time to manage the transmission of the virus, so that those most at risk can be protected. In the case of the Coronavirus, those most at risk are the elderly and members of the community with pre-existing conditions. The typical impact of Coronavirus on children has been compared to the experience of a head cold or flu; some children will experience no symptoms at all. However, given the communal nature of schools, children are rapid transmitters of the virus to those at home, hence the possibility of school quarantines.

NOTE : A shut down would only be enacted if the School was directed to do so by the Department of Health. It will not be a local school decision!!!

Learning:

With the support of parents, *in the event of a school closure*, it is our intention to provide students with modified, abbreviated learning packages through our existing SeeSaw interface. All families will receive an update with information and links to a modified SeeSaw app that will enable them to download a curriculum version in order to access the learning. If you do not have the Seesaw app, you are advised to download it and connect with classroom teachers.

In addition, teachers will provide guidelines on structuring a work day and environment at home to help facilitate the learning if required. The content will be designed to assist students to develop and master skills required to maintain a level of knowledge that will enable a seamless return to study once the shutdown has been cancelled.

In the event of a shutdown, teachers will direct the flow of work and communication with their classes. Teachers may not be able to answer every individual email or message using this format, however, we do encourage students to contact teachers if they are confused about their task and cannot find the solutions within the instructions/information provided.

Our goal over this period of time will be continuity, engagement and resilience building. Do not be anxious about the gaps that may occur in your child's learning. Staff will address these gaps when traditional classes recommence.

Suspension of all non-essential activities and “Static Gatherings”

The Department of Education has requested that we suspend or cancel non-essential gatherings, meetings, events and activities. In order to align with this request, I am implementing a “core business only” strategy and the following activities will be postponed or cancelled:

- **Harmony Day:** All activities scheduled for this week are now to be conducted in classrooms - with the community assembly cancelled. Students can still wear orange clothing to help celebrate the day.

- **Assemblies:** all assemblies for the remainder of term one and potentially term two will be cancelled. Awards etc that would have been a part of these events will now be presented in classes.
- **All planned excursions** in Term Two are subject to review.
- **School Board and P&C meetings** will be postponed until further notice.
- **Triple P** parenting and **Better Beginnings** parent workshops in term one will be cancelled.
- The **Students Leaders Conference** scheduled for next week has been postponed by the host school until further notice.
- All participation in **interschool sporting carnivals** is now postponed or cancelled.
- **ANZAC Commemorations** for 2020 in Term 2 will be cancelled.
- The “**LETS**” **Program** in term two is cancelled.
- **Mother’s Day** events will be limited to classrooms at this stage, however may also be cancelled.
- **Running Club** will be cancelled until further notice.
- **Parent-teacher interviews** will be cancelled for term one with term two under review. (Parents scheduled to attend this afternoon will be advised via the Front Office team).

Playground:

The requirement to not have any more than 500 people in the same place at any given time can easily be accommodated at Aspiri Primary School. Our students play in 3 separate zones of the playground during any normal day; and on the main playground play equipment on their designated day. At any time, there is no more than 200 students in any area at the same time.

Quarantine Requirements:

As per the WA Premiers instructions, all people returning to WA after midnight last night are required to place themselves into voluntary quarantine for two weeks. Please refer to the latest updates from the Department of Health via this link:

https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus.

Updates:

The school will provide updates as urgent information becomes available. To this end, please ensure that you check emails regularly.

Questions:

Due the expected high volume of enquiries, any questions should be via email and I will be happy to respond as quickly as possible.

Send them to: noel.morgan@education.wa.edu.au

At all times throughout this journey, the school will prioritise the health of our staff and our students. Please demonstrate your support by adhering to all Department of Health directives at this time.

Yours sincerely

Noel Morgan

Principal, Aspiri Primary School.

08 93978300