

Parent Update #2 for Term 2 2020

On Friday 17th April the Premier of Western Australia, Mark McGowan announced a “Soft” opening in Term 2 for public schools as part of a COVID-19 response. This means an adjustment of our previous plans for Term Two. We have outlined the new process in detail for you in this document.

Aspiri Primary School is open for students whose parents and carers decide to send their child/children to school.

Aspiri, like all public schools in WA will be open when Term Two commences tomorrow, Wednesday 29th April for all students whose parents and carers choose to send their children to school.

We are open for business, but.... it is not business as usual!

There will be significant changes to our school operations on site to comply with health advice and Government directives. The overview and changes for both onsite and Aspiri at home learners are outlined in the relevant sections below.

A key message to parents is to please be patient whilst we embed the new structures and planning. We will not get this right from day one, but will be doing our absolute best to adapt, adjust and accommodate all of the necessary changes and requirements as quickly as possible. To blame teachers and the school for omissions, gaps or errors at this stage would be akin to “shooting the messenger”. Please be patient and thoughtful, we are doing our best in a very fluid environment...

Please note that it is a requirement of the Department of Education that parents must drop their child/children at the school “gates” and must not enter the school grounds. Although the gates will be open for drop off and pick up parents and carers must not enter the grounds.

Students who learn at home will have an engaging and well supported program.

For parents who choose to keep their children at home, or have children defined as ‘vulnerable’ by the Health Department, the school will maintain Aspiri’s planned Off site Learning processes via the seesaw app. We will provide a dedicated team of teachers to provide support and guidance to enable parents to maintain an education program at home. Tomorrow and Thursday, all families will receive off site learning content until we have confirmed attendances at school. Those sending students to school should simply ignore the content supplied. This is ensure that, in the first few days we do not miss any students participating in Off-site curriculum delivery.

Students at school will be taught a face to face program by a classroom teacher.

This will be based on the excellent content which was already prepared for Term Two for Off-site Learning. What is being covered at school, to the best of our capabilities, will be covered at home in the material provided and supported by the teachers delivering it. No matter your decision as parents, all students will be supported by the school. As advised previously, we will not guarantee at this time that your child attending school or participating in Off Site learning will have their regular classroom teacher due to restructure requirements and rostering.

Physical Distancing – if at school.

The school will endeavour, within our available physical and financial resources to maintain physical distancing for students and staff, however we are limited by the number of rooms and space available, weather conditions and the numbers of students in attendance. Accommodating large numbers of students on site may cause some disruptions such as dividing classes into other areas, alternative spaces such as undercover area, library, passive play etc. Inclement weather will also inhibit this strategy.

Learning at Home –Off site Education Packages

We remain committed to providing high quality support for parents who decide to keep their children at home during this time. Access to teachers will be slightly different than we originally planned. Please see below for details.

High quality teaching programs have been designed by all classroom teachers to ensure that every student can learn at home, and that support, and guidance is available from qualified staff, even while students complete work at home.

A dedicated off site delivery teaching team will be on-call during school hours. Parents or students requiring assistance can access our support team through phone, email or the seesaw app as follows:

- Phone: call the school office on 9397 8300 and ask to speak with the support team
- Email teaching and learning queries: Aspiri.PS.@education.wa.edu.au
- Seesaw app as per our Guidelines sent to you last term.

Please keep your expectations realistic and be aware that messages and requests to teachers may not be able to be answered promptly as teachers will be engaged in completing allocated tasks for a significant proportion of each school day.

At School Learning. Onsite Operations

This will operate as follows:

Before School Arrival - Not Before 8.30am

Kindergarten

- Students to be dropped off at the Early Childhood gates after **8.45am**.
- Students will be escorted from the gate by a staff member to the classroom.
- Please be patient and maintain Physical distancing while this occurs. Please be on time.

Pre-Primary

- Students to be dropped off at the Early Childhood gates at **8.30am**.
- Students will be escorted from the gate by a staff member to the classroom.
- Please be patient and maintain Physical distancing while this occurs. Please be on time.

Year 1

To enter via the gates adjacent to the year one block on Sunray Avenue no earlier than 8.30 am. Teachers will pick up students from the gate at this time.

Years 2 to Year 6

- Students to be dropped off / enter at the school gates around the school after 8.30am
- Students will proceed to directly their classroom.

All students who are late must enter via the Front Office. Staff will escort them to classrooms.

After School Pick Up

Kindergarten:

Students will be ready for pick up at **2.45 pm** from the Early Childhood gates.

Pre Primary:

Students will be ready for pick up at **2.30pm from the Basketball Courts**. See the attached map for location details.

Parents are to assemble behind the Covered Assembly area as indicated on the map and will move to the Basketball Courts via the inside gate where they will pick up their children and exit via the gate at the Rossiter Oval side of the Courts. Pathways will be indicated using arrows on the ground. Please follow these pathways. Staff will be present to assist parents.

Year one:

There will be a student handover at the gate where your child entered the school in the morning. This will commence at the normal school finish time of 2.40pm.

- Please be patient and maintain physical distancing while this occurs. – you may need to bring an umbrella!

Year 2 - Year 6:

Students will be dismissed from classrooms at 2.40 pm and exit via the closest gate to their classroom.

- **Parents should ensure they have arranged a meeting place outside of the school gates if you are picking up students.**

Out of school hours care.

OSH will drop off and pick up students to and from classes at the new arranged times. Parents may not enter the school to drop off or pick up their children – OSH club will provide further details shortly. Any questions should be directed to your OSH contacts via the normal communication methods. At this time, they are open for restricted enrolments and with amended drop off and pick up processes.

Students as chaperones.

While these measures are in place, older siblings will be permitted to walk Kindergarten and Pre-primary students to the designated drop-off areas in the morning. Older siblings must then move to their own classes.

For afternoon pick-ups, the older child will be released from class and will go to their younger sibling's area. The younger sibling will be supervised in the area until collected.

A Directive from the Director General of Education.

Unwell Students. If your child displays any signs or symptoms of illness, you must keep them at home. If a student displays **any** signs of illness at school, parents will be expected to collect them immediately – without delay.

Recess and Lunch.

- Students are strongly encouraged; and will be reminded and guided to maintain the physical distancing expectations of the community which are still in place.
- Lunch time will include rearranged seating areas for eating as has been our practice.
- Playground equipment will be open/available where practical. Playground equipment will be cleaned after use.
- Students are not permitted to bring any play equipment from home (as per usual).

Any games that require or involve physical contact are not permitted.

Limited Activities.

The following activities remain suspended until further notice:

- The library is currently closed for borrowing items.
- School Assemblies
- School Board and P&C meetings in person.
- Parent meetings/ interviews
- Excursions
- Incursions
- Choir
- Instrumental Music Lessons
- Interschool Sport

Attendance.

The school continues to monitor, record and follow-up attendance during this time.

Learning from Home? Please let us know as soon as possible.

By now you will have been required to let us know via your Seesaw app, if you have decided that your child/ren will be learning at home. If you cannot access your class app please use the regular school contact process.

This is your undertaking that children will remain at home, every day, completing our Education Programs. Parents cannot pick and choose attendance days.

If you choose for your child to recommence school, you must let the school know and commencement day will be the Monday of the following week.

Where to next?

Of course, we could not predict the Government changes that occurred over the last week and as we have constantly stated, undoubtedly things will change again.

Some of these strategies will work well, others will need to be tweaked, however these measures or versions of them will be in place until May 15 at this stage and will be subject to ongoing monitoring and review.

It is expected that further announcements will be made by the Government in response to Health Advice, which may see the status quo continued, or easing of some of these measures, and a full return to school.

We sincerely thank all our staff, students, parents and our wider Aspiri Primary School community for your understanding and patience during this very difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Noel Morgan,

Principal, Aspiri Primary School.

