



MOUNT HAWTHORN PRIMARY SCHOOL

TOGETHER TOWARDS THE FUTURE

Dear Parents

Like you, we are concerned about the COVID-19 as this is a rapidly evolving situation. I want to reinforce strongly that the health and welfare of students and staff is my key responsibility and I will be led by the Department of Education.

It is a priority that students and staff feel it is “business as usual” with a few, hopefully short term, changes.

As you may have heard, the Prime Minister announced on the weekend a number of measures that all Premiers agreed to on the basis of the Advice from Australian Chief Health Officers. This morning I met with members of the School Board and P&C who fully support our School’s position.

I would like to outline Mount Hawthorn Primary School’s action plan, which sets out measures to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak.

These measures do not include the closure of the school. Any possible closure of our school will be made on the recommendation of WA Health Department and the Education Department’s Incident controller. If we need to close you will be contacted immediately. At school we have developed a COVID-19 communication charter to ensure immediate notification to parents and staff. This will be communicated via the FlexiBuzz App and our Liaison Parents, so please ensure you are signed up and your class Liaison Rep has your best contact details.

We ask that any staff or families do not return to school for two weeks if they have returned from overseas travel. As outlined by the Prime Minister they will be required to self-isolate.

All non-essential planned gatherings of more than 500 people must be cancelled; this includes all excursions, incursions and assemblies. These cancellations are disappointing but necessary. The ANZAC Ceremony will take on a different format utilising the school’s PA system. The school already runs a split timetable and modified arrangements for eating lunch have been implemented as from today. We would also like to extend this to parent helpers and non-essential visitors.

The fabric of the school will not change and we will still celebrate events like Harmony Day, albeit in a different way. This also includes recognising our students receiving Merit Certificates.

I want to reassure you that we are working as a staff to plan, prepare and respond, including developing an alternative learning program, if we were instructed to close. Due to the potential for a high number of students being impacted by the 14-day self-isolation requirement, and students whose parents have chosen to keep them home during the pandemic, the school will not be providing homework packages. Staff will focus their energy on minimising the risk to students attending school and the continuity of their classroom teaching and learning.

At school we will enforce good hygiene practices including no hand shaking, keeping a reasonable distance from others and a focus on handwashing.

I appreciate some students may find this situation distressing. Please let your child’s teacher know if this is case so we can look at ways to assist.

We believe these responses are reasonable, proportionate and based on the latest information and advice. They will be continually reviewed and we will update you accordingly.

Dale Mackesey
PRINCIPAL

16 March 2020