



**Produced by Dwellingup Primary School**

**Mar 20th 2020**

*Established 1911*

**"Choose Respect"**

Dates to Remember:

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Free Community Movie (cancelled)

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar:** NAPLAN Online Practice Yrs3 &5 (cancelled)

**Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> Mar:** K/PP Assembly (cancelled)

**Fri 27<sup>th</sup> Mar:** Hockey Clinics PP – 6 (cancelled)

**Tues 31<sup>st</sup> Mar:** Shoelace Tying Incursion K-3 (cancelled)

**Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Apr:** Term 1 ends Free Dress

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Apr:** Giant Pumpkin Competition (post-poned)

**Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Apr:** Term 2 commences

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May:** "Earth Care Fair" Forest Discovery Centre (post-poned)

**Weekly Events at D.P.S.**

**Wed:** Playgroup 9.00-11.00am

**Educational Websites at DPS:**

[www.mathletics.com.au](http://www.mathletics.com.au)

[www.studyladder.com.au](http://www.studyladder.com.au)

[www.mylexile.com.au](http://www.mylexile.com.au)

## **Covid – 19**

It is unbelievable how much the world can change in one week. We are in extraordinary and challenging times. Our job at school is to provide a calm and stable environment in the face of what is a rapidly evolving situation.

We received notification today that the NAPLAN testing has been cancelled. At present 20% of students state wide are being kept home and this could increase. As a result, test results would not be valid as comparisons are made with Australian and 'like schools'. As you can see above, we have cancelled all excursions and incursions. Recorder has also been suspended until further notice. We know that regular attendance is vital; however, in these times we request that children are kept at home if they show any signs of illness.

At school we are reminding students to wash hands after visiting the toilet (all toilets have soap), to sanitise before entering class and to avoid touching each other. Students are never allowed to share food. Please remind your child of the importance of these procedures.

We thank our cleaners, Mrs **Barbara Pelham** and Mrs **Robyn Warren** for all of the extra cleaning they are doing. In addition to all of their current duties, they are sanitising all student chairs each day.

All decisions in relation to schools are made from advice from the Chief Health Officer. We receive daily updates from the Department of Education which we take very seriously. We believe that we have exceeded to recommendations that we have been given.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns.

## **Staff Changes**

**Mr Jason Jones** will commence as the years 4/5/6 teacher on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March**.

We are very grateful to **Mrs Kerry Sadler** for doing such a wonderful job of taking the class until the staffing process was complete. **Kerry** has provided a wonderful start to the year for the years 4/5/6 students and she will be missed. A permanent vacancy arose with the resignation of **Mr Jeff Melkert**. **Jason** has previously taught at Katanning and comes extremely highly recommended.

**Mrs De Taylah Boer** will commence maternity leave in week 3 of next term. The resulting vacancy has been advertised. Please note that staffing procedures are mandated by the Department of Education, not the school.



## Configuration of the School Day

We teach Literacy and Numeracy in ‘blocks’ in the morning when students are ‘fresh, more receptive and therefore more likely to be engaged in their learning. It has been noted that after the lunch break students aren’t as focussed on their learning and many find the 2 hours until home time quite arduous. To maximise learning, we have decided to extend the morning session and therefore shorten the afternoon session.

The advantages are that students will have more time in the morning to focus on Literacy and Numeracy. The afternoon session will be reduced to one and a half hours.

Amended times are as follows:

8.30am	<b>Classrooms open (no change)</b>
8.50 am	<b>School starts (no change)</b>
8.50 -10.00am	<b>Period 1</b>
10.00 – 10.10am	<b>Fruit Break</b>
10.10am – 11.05am	<b>Period 2</b>
11.05 – 11.25am	<b>Recess (changed from 10.50am - 11.10am)</b>
11.25 – 12.25	<b>Period 3</b>
12.25 – 1.25	<b>Period 4</b>
1.25pm – 1.55pm	<b>LUNCH (changed from 12.30pm – 1.00pm)</b>
1.55 – 3.00pm	<b>Period 5</b>
3.00pm	<b>Hometime (no change)</b>

**Mrs De Boer and Mrs Sadler** have both worked at Pinjarra Primary School where this configuration is in place. They both report that there is a positive impact on student learning and well-being. The arrangement has been approved by the School Council.

Your child will require a recess snack, a piece of fruit or vegetables for the 10.00 – 10.10pm break and then lunch. They may need more for recess and less for lunch as their food intake will be spread over three breaks instead of two. Please ensure that your child has fruit or vegetables for the fruit break. No muesli bars please. In normal circumstances the school would be providing the “Crunch & Sip” tray here but as you know, this is no longer possible. We plan to start this arrangement in week 9 (Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March).

## Harmony Day



The theme of **Harmony Day** is that “**We Are All Different and Special**”. Students talked about celebrating our differences. Hands were decorated and displayed to highlight difference, tolerance and acceptance.



## “Choose Respect” Marble in the Jar Certificates

*Luca Birmingham, Ava Bucktin, Deegan Fort, Lily Lamb, Bodhi Maddox-Collins, Rhys Salter* ~ Demonstrating mature individual work habits in spelling and for progressing well as a result.

*Nate Fort* ~ Always being responsible and for being an extremely willing helper in and out of the classroom.

*Capri Sellenger* ~ Always being kind and caring to everyone.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

