

Dwellingup Primary School

**10 Newton Street
Dwellingup WA 6213
Telephone: 0895385100
ABN: 83956672417**



Dear Parents,

Thank you all for your support in regards to all of the issues arising from the COVID-19 Corona virus and your child's education.

Schools are open for all students whose parents / carers choose to send them. If you decide that your child is to learn at home, education resources will continue to be provided. School commences tomorrow, Wednesday 29th April.

A range of hygiene measures have been introduced / continued to support student safety. These are further detailed in the accompanying letter.

Please note:

- The deployment of extra cleaning staff will facilitate increased environmental cleaning throughout the day, including high touch areas such as desks. The environmental program will be open. Desks will be cleaned approximately once per hour.
- Children will be instructed not to share resources and will be assigned an individual i-Pad.
- Parents are to drop their children at the gate and not enter school grounds. Please phone the office if you would like a staff member to collect your child / children from the gate if necessary. Nola or Wendy will be at the gate to welcome / farewell K/PP students.
- If you need to collect your child during the day, please phone the school and you will be met at the gate.
- Continued hygiene measures include encouraging handwashing.
- Excursions, assemblies and interschool activities will not occur until further notice.
- There will be no lunch orders until further notice.
- 'Crunch and Sip' will not be provided until further notice.

A helpline for parents (1800 882 345) has been set up to further assist parents.

A reminder that we will be commencing our new configuration of the school day tomorrow (details Dwellingup Crier Mar 27th 2020). School starts and finishes at the same time but lunch is not until 1.25pm. There are two snack breaks in the morning. A morning recess snack and lunch should be provided as normal. The second morning break is a fruit break so a piece of fruit or vegetable needs to be provided. Fruit or vegetables only can be eaten in this break.

Please feel free to contact us at any time in regards to any of these matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Colleen Sing'.

Colleen Sing
Principal
28th April 2020



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear parents and carers

Chief Health Officer advice for parents on returning to schools

The COVID-19 pandemic is, and will continue to be, a very worrying time for many parents and carers as we see the devastation caused by this virus around the world. Importantly, schools are a central part of a child's life. They provide stability, a sense of achievement and a rich learning environment for every child. This is especially important at a time when many children and young people are feeling stressed about COVID-19 and worried about what the future may hold.

Fortunately, Western Australia (WA) has been spared from widespread disease through effective border controls, contact tracing, quarantine and social distancing measures, and currently has very few cases and no evidence of community spread. I encourage you and your families to keep up the good work, as we have achieved a lot, but we need to maintain our efforts for some time to come. Thank you for all that you are doing.

My job is to ensure that the Western Australian community stays as healthy and disease free as possible. Together with the Chief Health Officers in other States and Territories, I have weighed up the pros and cons of children attending school.

With the very low levels of COVID-19 in Western Australia, along with the wider public health strategies now in place, I strongly believe there is no need for school closures in this state currently. Even when we had higher rates of disease in our state, only 1.5% of cases were school students, all of whom had mild illness and have fully recovered. There also was no spread between students or to teachers. I encourage families to feel comfortable and safe about sending their children to school.

However, if your child has a chronic medical condition or a compromised immune system, you may wish to consult your GP or paediatrician when deciding if your child should return to school.

I have been working closely with the Department for Education, Catholic Education and the Independent Schools Board to make schools as safe as possible for everyone. This includes increasing cleaning schedules, making sure there is soap and tissues for students and staff, having protocols in place to practice social distancing, not having large gatherings of the school community and teaching children, however young, to avoid passing on germs.

We have a clear protocol for a minimum 24-hour closure in the event of a case of COVID-19 in a school, to allow us to contact anyone at risk and to undertake a deep clean. These rigorous protocols have been adopted previously without further issues.

If your child/children are well, I encourage you to send them back to school this term. If they have symptoms of a cold or have a fever, please keep them at home until they are better. If you are concerned they may have contracted COVID-19, they can be tested through our COVID Clinics or in private collection centres. I wish you and your child/children all the very best in health and education for term 2.

Yours sincerely

DR ANDY ROBERTSON
Chief Health Officer

22 April 2020