



RIVERSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

19th March 2020

Good Morning Parents, Carers and Families,

In light of the current situation with COVID-19 I would like to keep you informed of our responses to this serious issue.

Currently the Department of Education has a business as usual approach to schools and although this may change in the future, any school closures will only occur subject to recommendations from the Dept. of Health.

Assemblies, sport carnivals, teachers staff meetings and even teacher conferences, have all been cancelled to minimise the situation where large groups of people come together at school. We are running 'Radio Assemblies' over the PA system in our classes to keep up the 'normal procedures' of aspects of our assemblies i.e. Honour Certificates and weekly reports from Student Council and Faction Captains etc.

Correct hand washing procedures, along with lessons on personal hygiene are the focus in classes so your child is supported to keep good personal hygiene in this time. Extra soap and paper towels are provided in every teaching block throughout the school and the school cleaning team are focussing on diligent and careful cleaning of school surfaces.

From today we will be changing our **library book borrowing processes so that books are not taken home and then returned, but are only to be used within the school.** This is intended to minimise cross contamination from house to school to house. Library borrowing will continue but the books borrowed stay in school, in class desk drawers for use by the student and then returned as normal.

Our **Breakfast Club will be closed until the start of next term** at this stage. However, staff will continue to provide for students who are in need with supplies in each teaching 'block'.

Students will be asked to fill their water bottles from the drinking fountains and not drink directly from them to minimise saliva and surface contamination. Parents, could you **please ensure your child has a water bottle at school**, even a plastic water bottle can be used in the short time. As per our usual procedures, students are reminded not to share food with their friends to avoid cross contamination.

As we are now moving into the 'normal flu season' and many of us have coughs and colds we are **asking that parents, families and sibling do the 'drop off and pick up of children' at the classroom door and do not enter the classroom.** This is to minimise cross contamination of bugs and germs that students will pick up from desk tops, teaching and learning equipment and chairs. Having a close and engaged parent and family group in classrooms is something we value highly and look forward to a time when we again have everyone in rooms together. However, in the current health emergency we ask to complete the door 'hand over' of students.

In these testing times it is vital that we all work together and support each other as we are all coming to grips with a 'new normal' way of life at the present time.

Kindness, understanding and support is needed to help everyone, most importantly your children, be reassured that together we will all keep safe.

As per usual, if your child is feeling sick or is showing symptoms of the flu please keep them home until they are well.

Like most schools in the area, we are aware of some members of the Mandurah community that have been self-isolating after returning back into Australia from overseas following the instructions from the Australian Government. This **does not mean** they have COVID-19.

This does not necessarily mean they are sick, just that this is a broad Australia wide, recommendation from the Government in the interest of public health.

In some cases, in the Mandurah area, children have also been kept home with their parent after the parent has returned home from overseas. Again, this does not mean there is an issue, just that they are following the correct protocol issued by the Government.

This must be a challenging time for these families and they deserve our support and help, at what is a very difficult family time.

With the situation being updated almost daily, we will endeavour to keep you informed as new information and our responses to any changes, come through.

As always, I am available and happy to answer your questions or concerns that you may have.

I am very grateful for the wonderful, positive and supportive community we have at our school and have appreciated the messages of support myself and the staff have been getting from families.

Keep safe and well.

Kind regards,

Peter Dunning

Principal



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