

*And suddenly you just know it's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.*  
Meister Eckhart

8 May 2020

### **Principal's Report**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is a week that a little while ago felt a long way away. With the support of all the families and the professional commitment of the staff, the students have had terrific week back at school. We have averaged over 92% attendance which is only 3% less than our normal average. We have some families who are at home and we will continue to support them and their children.

Please note we are by no means out of the COVID-19 woods. Our leaders are working hard and have done an amazing job throughout this crisis. They are slowly assessing the situation and easing the restrictions. It is important to acknowledge the impact COVID-19 has had on our community. I am very mindful of the health and wellbeing of our students, my staff and our community. **Safety, Care** and supportive operations of our school are paramount at this time.

We are all navigating a world that may look the same but is very different to the one we had at the beginning of 2020. Although the students are back at school it is important to:

- Acknowledge that you and your children may be more tired than usual
- Maintain your daily routines and structures
- Maintain a healthy consistent diet and regular sleep patterns for the family.
- Not stress about what your child/ren are learning or have missed out on. Your child will be in the schooling system for 13 years and they have been out of standard schooling for at most six to eight weeks. It's a very short time over that duration. They have in fact learnt a great deal more about life that will only enhance their overall education.
- Be around, listen and keep everything as consistent as possible. Students health and mental wellbeing is critical right now. This has been a traumatic event for all and each child will process it differently and in a different time frame. Do not be surprised that some issues or concerns your child has do not come to the surface till some time from now.

The below Triple P podcasts are designed to provide you with helpful strategies to support your children.

#### **Parenting in a Pandemic (Podcast)**

Episode 1: There's no playbook for parenting in a pandemic (about 12 minutes)

Episode 2: Creating routine and predictability in uncertain times (about 12 minutes)

Episode 3: Avoiding Family Feuds

Episode 4: Juggling Responsibilities

To listen, visit: [pfsc.psychology.uq.edu.au/parentinginapandemic](https://pfsc.psychology.uq.edu.au/parentinginapandemic)

#### **Review – What's Working Well**

- Our Anzac Assembly was unfortunately too large to record and send out. We have learnt from this and have presented this week's Class Assembly in a different format.
- Well done to Cube 1 for presenting the Assembly at short notice. Miss Kendall has been amazing for our school and again she has demonstrated what an exceptional educator she is.
- Student movement around the school has been smooth and without disruption.
- Social distancing measures are working

- Teaching and learning program has been effectively implemented
- Dropping off and picking up procedures have continued to improve each day.

### Working on

- Children with siblings must have only one location for drop off and pick up each day. Changing it makes it very hard to manage and causes disruptions to traffic flow.
- Year 3 and 5 students will now be dismissed at the same time and can be picked up at 3pm.

### Addressing

(As we are in an adjustment period, we will roll out processes in a manner that supports staff, student and parent needs.)

- **Reports.** Reports will be released at the end of this term at the usual time. Reports will provide a general progress to date and will be sent electronically.
- **NAPLAN.** Year 3 and 5 students will be assessed using a reliable instrument that matches NAPLAN criteria. Assessments will take place when we believe the students are truly comfortable with being back at school. We will not be informing parents of dates as it is a school based assessment and we do not wish to add stress/ anxiety to anyone. **The results will be provided to parents electronically, in a similar format to NAPLAN reports.**
- **Parent/teacher Interviews.** Interviews as we have engaged in previously are not going to occur just yet. We are waiting on direction from Government.
- **Individual Parent meetings.** Individual Parent meetings are allowed. If you wish to meet with your teacher over specific issues that require face to face, make an appointment. Meetings will take place in a room that is not frequented by children.
- **Incursions.** We await direction from the Government.
- **Before and After school activities.** We await direction from the Government. School grounds remain 'Out of bounds to all.'
- **Collection of Children during school hours.** We will arrange for your child to be collected at the Front Office. Phone reception from the front door. Normal sign-out procedures apply.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Please let me know if you have any questions or you see issues that may need to be addressed.

I wish all mums a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards

*Simon*

Simon Reid  
Principal



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