

Dear parents/carers

Thank you to parents who have contacted the school seeking clarification on Term 2 processes. I have provided more details below, which I hope will address your questions.

Teaching and Learning

- Monday 27 April is a public holiday;
- Tuesday 28 April will be a pupil free day. There will be no students at school as staff will be using this day for preparation;
- From Wednesday 29 April, school is open for all students whose parents/carers choose to send them. **We anticipate that between 50-70% of students at Bannister Creek Primary will return to school;**
- **Students who attend school will be taught in their own classroom by their class teacher**, following the normal class timetable. School hours will be as normal- **8:40am to 2:45pm;**
- For those children learning from home, this will be through online or hard copy packages, both modes managed by the School Administration Team;
- **Online packages** will be uploaded via Seesaw by 12pm Tuesday, 28th April;
- **Hard copy packages** will be collated and put in envelopes labelled with family names. These can be collected from a table outside the school front office from 12pm Tuesday 28th April. Details of how to undertake and return the work will accompany the packages;
- For those students who are learning from home, contact by school will be made each week by phone and/or online.

Health and Hygiene

The WA Chief Health Officer letter which was attached to April 24th Parent Update states:

- Schools are safe for staff and students and should stay open
- That school staff and children are not at increased risk of COVID-19 by physically attending school; and
- That there have been no cases of student-to-student transmission in Western Australia and no cases of student to teacher transmission.
- **If your child/children are unwell, have symptoms of a cold or fever, please keep them home until they are better. Seek medical advice if you are concerned.**

Updated advice on schools was provided by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) on Friday 24 April. It stated that AHPPC does not believe that the 'venue density rule' of no more than one person per four square metres is appropriate or practical in classrooms or corridors, nor maintaining 1.5m between students during classroom activities.

On Saturday the 25 April 2020 the AHPPC published updated guidelines on reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools. References to a 1.5m rule on entering and exiting classrooms and group work were removed.

Personal hygiene:

The School will reinforce good hygiene habits with students including daily instruction on:

- Frequently washing your hands for at least 20seconds with soap or water, or using an alcohol based hand gel;

- Refraining from touching face;
- If coughing or sneezing, covering your nose and mouth with a paper tissue or flexed elbow. Dispose of tissue immediately after use;
- There will be regular inspections of all toilets on site, to ensure that they are being cleaned with ample supplies of soap and disposable towel;
- Water Fountains are turned off as they are considered a high risk contamination source. **All students attending need to bring their own water bottle that has been filled up. If students need to refill their bottle during the day, taps will be made available.**

Cleaning:

- Cleaning guidelines are based on, and continuously reviewed in line with, advice from the Department of Health.
- **Cleaning will increase in Term 2, with cleaning staff on site throughout the school day to regularly clean and disinfect high-contact surfaces that are frequently used by students and/or staff.**
- **Playgrounds will be open and play equipment will be cleaned before school and after each break.**

Drop-off and Pick-up Processes

To ensure social distancing between adults is in place at schools, parents are requested to drop off and pick up their children at school gates, or nearby. This is based on advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee.

Parents and visitors will drop students at specified gates and not enter the school grounds. Limited school gates will be open from **8:30am**. Children will be met at the gate by school staff and guided to classrooms where class teachers will be waiting to greet students.

****Kindergarten and Pre-Primary Children – Parents are to deliver and collect children to and from Purley Park at the back entrance to the ECE grounds. Children will be escorted to classrooms as they arrive**

****Year 1 Children- Purley Park double gate near T3 will be open. Parents have the option of delivering and collecting their child to and from this area. Children will be met by staff and escorted to classrooms. At the end of the day staff will bring the children back to this area for parent collection.**

All other Years can:

Enter and exit through the back gate near T4

Use the Kiss and Drop zone near the back school entrance

Enter and Exit via the gate near the Chinese room on the school oval.

Our priority is to do all we can to support our students during this transition phase. I understand that many children will feel anxious on re-starting school, particularly with changes to the entry process. Staff will be monitoring and supporting all students entering and exiting the school grounds.

Communication

If you have any questions regarding the Schools response to COVID 19 or would like to raise any issues with any item in this update, please contact me personally.

Phone: 93660900

Email: Lynnette.Macauley@education.wa.edu.au

Thank you to the many families who have emailed the school at bannistercreek.ps@education.wa.edu.au to request hard copy or online home learning packages, or to inform us that your child/children will be returning to school. Your notification is much appreciated and assists with planning. Please continue to contact us with your learning options.

Kind Regards

Lyn Macauley

Principal

27th April 2020