



Charthouse

Primary School

COVID-19 Update

Hello Charthouse PS Parents and Community Members

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support this term. I'd also like to acknowledge the resilience and positive attitude of our staff, parents, students and wider community, as we make changes to our school's daily operations with the aim of minimising the potential risk of transmission from the COVID-19 virus. While these changes will effect some of the non-essential aspects of our school, our staff are working hard to ensure that that students' daily routines and learning programs are maintained, with as much consistency and stability as possible.

As we shared on Connect yesterday, schools receive regular updates each week from the Department of Education with information aligned to the Department of Health. These updates inform our decision-making and actions; the most recent of which are outlined below. Depending on updated advice provided to us from the authorities, additional changes may be introduced in the coming weeks. In the event of future changes, we will keep you informed via Connect. I appreciate your understanding of these changes as we work together as a team to overcome the challenges COVID-19 presents.

Recess and Lunch

In response to the Prime Minister's address on Sunday, we have staggered our Recess and Lunch breaks with our Early Childhood students having break times immediately after the rest of the school. Each class will continue to have crunch and sip during the day, with a focus on children bringing fruit, vegetables and water to have outside of break times.

Before and after eating, including crunch and sip, all children will be instructed to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitiser. Similarly, before and after playing,

children will either wash their hands or use hand sanitiser.

We are fortunate that our school site is large, so that our children are spread out during playtimes. This means that currently play areas will continue as usual, however, we may need to alter these arrangements in the future if further advice is received.

Assemblies

We had hoped to separate our assemblies into junior and senior groups so that they could continue, however, after further consideration we have decided to cancel all assemblies from this week. This decision limits the number of students in close proximity to each other and supports social distancing measures as parents and carers will not be in attendance. Students will still receive merit certificates in individual classes, which will be presented by the Principal and Deputy Principals. To reduce the number of people on site, parents will not be able to attend individual certificate presentations.

Swimming Lessons

Unfortunately, we will be cancelling our swimming lessons booked for the end of this term. As we use a public pool for these lessons we are unable to control the number of other people who may be present during lesson times or their proximity to our students and staff. We will endeavour to re-book these lessons for later in the year and students who have already paid for swimming lessons will have the amounts credited back against their student account to be available to be used for future incursions/excursions.

If you would prefer to receive a refund for swimming lessons already paid, then you will need to request this in writing by email to

charthouse.ps@education.wa.edu.au

Refunds can only be processed directly to a nominated bank account. When requesting a refund please include the following information:

Student Name
Year Level
Room Number
Event e.g. 2020 Swimming Lessons
Name of Bank Account
BSB Number
Account Number

Camp

As notified on Connect yesterday, our Year 6 school camp has been postponed at the instruction of the Department. We are currently investigating alternatives for later in the year and are hopeful that we can re-book this for Term 4, 2020. We will keep our Year 6 parents informed when we have further information.

Breakfast Club

We consider our Breakfast Club to be essential for our students and are endeavouring to keep it open for as long as possible. As with Recess and Lunch, children will be instructed to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitiser both before and after eating. To support social distancing measures aimed at keeping our Club open for as long as possible, we would appreciate you speaking with your children about only using the Club if necessary for the foreseeable future.

Canteen and P&C Events

Thank you to our volunteers and P&C Executive Team who are working with the school to support social distancing measures. Based on current information, P&C events such as breakfasts will be cancelled for the foreseeable future.

It is likely that in the coming days our Canteen will move to online orders through QuickCliq as the only means of ordering food. Once this decision has been finalised and we have more information about how this will work and from which day, we will let you all know.

If you are considering coming to the P&C AGM tomorrow in the Community Room (old Science/Art Room) we will be meeting at 6pm. We will be practising hygiene measures and social distancing during the brief meeting, where we are hoping to have sufficient volunteers to nominate and fill P&C Executive positions.

Special Events

Harmony Day and Bullying No Way Day will still be celebrated at our school, so please send your children in something orange on Friday. Each classroom will participate in activities organised by their teacher to celebrate the Charthouse PS team, however, we will not be having any whole school activities.

The Brilliant Kids Morning Tea has been postponed until later in the year and all excursions have been cancelled until further notice. This includes sports carnivals.

Our school's commemoration of ANZAC Day will also occur in classrooms early next term.

Similarly, the visit by the Perth Symphony Orchestra has been cancelled and our Lap-a-thon, scheduled for next term, has been postponed.

World Autism Day will still be celebrated at Charthouse PS through in-class activities.

Contact details

Please ensure that the school is aware of any changes to your mobile phone number, Connect details or email address, as we will be continuing to use these mediums to contact parents. Tomorrow morning, a test SMS message will be sent to all parents. If you don't receive this message by 11:30am tomorrow, please contact the office on 9591 7900 or charthouse.ps@education.wa.edu.au so that we can ensure we have your current contact details. This email address can also be used for any clarification about our measures to support the health and safety of our community.

Once again, thank you for your understanding and your patience with the changes we will be introducing at school over the coming days and weeks. We will continue to act on the advice provided to us by the Department aimed at keeping our children and the adults who care for them safe and well. I am confident that with continued support, empathy and community spirit we will respond positively to this challenge.

Jane Wescott
Principal

17 March 2020