

# Camboon Primary School



## COVID-19 Update 18 March 2020

### Communication re: COVID-19

Most parents will be aware that we have been providing regular updates via Connect regarding COVID-19. We will continue to do so, and Connect will remain our main form of communication. We have asked all families to provide us with up-to-date contact information, and thank those who have already done so. We also request families to reach-out to other parents in their children's class/friendship group. Please check that others are using Connect, and if not, offer to help them set it up, or refer them to the office. Please go out of your way to speak to those you may not usually speak to, to check on them. We will set-up the notice board outside the library as a 'communication hub' and will place all up-to-date COVID-19 information there. (Please note those using Connect will not need to visit the noticeboard as it will be the same information.) It is important that our school community rally together at this very difficult time, and we thank you for doing so.

### Providing work for students who are kept home from school

Please refer to the update sent to parents on 16 and 17 March (via Connect) with Department of Health guidelines on who should socially isolate.

Some parents have asked if they can have work provided by the school if they choose to keep students at home. This depends on the circumstances:

- **IF** the child meets the criteria for self-isolation as outlined in the 16 March Update #2, then the school will provide work for the child to do at home.
- **IF** parents choose to keep children at home in order to reduce the risk of infection, without specific direction from a medical professional, the school will not send work home.

It is important to note that at this time the Department of Health and the Department of Education are not advising parents to keep children at home. In the event of a temporary school closure, further advice will be provided.

### Talking to your child about Coronavirus

Families may find the following links useful when determining how much to talk to kids about the virus. Class teachers will show the animated clip (the first link) to all students in Years 1-6.

A 4-minute animated clip for young people on coronavirus:

<https://www.brainpop.com/health/diseasesinjuriesandconditions/coronavirus/>

From Harvard University Medical School:

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/how-to-talk-to-teens-about-the-new-coronavirus-2020031419192>

From Beyond Blue:

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/the-facts/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

Health Department of WA:

<https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus>

## **Canteen**

The P&C have advised that the canteen will remain in operation for lunch ordering. However, there will not be an 'over the counter' service during recess or lunchtime. This means that students must bring something to school to eat for recess time as they will not be able to purchase something from the canteen. This change will take effect from this Friday 20 March.

## **Contact Details**

If you haven't already done so, please return the contact forms (sent home on Tuesday) to school, even if there are no changes made.

## **Mass Gatherings**

The government has now changed its advice regarding mass gatherings to the following:

*On Wednesday, 18 March the Australian Government announced that all organised, non-essential mass gatherings attended by more than 100 people for indoor events and more than 500 people for outdoors events must be cancelled from Wednesday 18 March 2020.*

In light of this, we will have students eat their lunch and recess as follows:

- Kindy and Pre-primary students and Year 1 and 2 students will continue to eat their recess and lunch as usual. This is in an outdoor area and the students are fairly spread-out.
- Year 3 and 4 students will eat their recess and lunch in the old undercover area where they will be supervised by a duty teacher.
- Year 5 and 6 students will eat their recess and lunch in the assembly area, where they will be supervised by a duty teacher.

Whilst these areas are not technically indoors, we are exercising caution.

## **Advice from the School Health Nurse**

Our school health nurse has provided the information below regarding hand washing:

Washing hands is the easiest way to protect ourselves from contagious diseases, like colds, influenza and gastroenteritis. Hands should be washed before and after eating or preparing food, after going to the toilet and after nose blowing.

When teaching your child to wash their hands:

- Use clean water and soap, making sure they cover their hands and wrists.
- Use a brush to clean under nails if they're dirty too
- Dry their hands with something clean (like a paper towel)

Alcohol based sanitisers are useful when soap and water is not available. Use half a teaspoon of the product and encourage your child to rub their hands together until they're dry. If you can see dirt on their hands, it is better to use soap and water. For more information go to [www.healthywa.wa.gov.au](http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au)

We thank you for your ongoing support in helping to keep our students and staff healthy and safe.

Yours truly



Janice Cuculoska

Principal

18 March 2020

