



WEST LEEDERVILLE  
PRIMARY

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we find ourselves in a Catch 22 situation. Some of you will want to know more about our plans before deciding if your children are returning to school next week; and we would like to know if your children are returning so we can plan accordingly. I hope that the information I provide in this letter will help you to decide, for this coming fortnight at least, as knowing this will allow us to better prepare.

Last term, our teachers planned extensively for delivering their programs for Term 2 online. This was no longer to be revision and consolidation work, as in the final weeks of Term 1, but the appropriate curriculum for each year level.

For the next two weeks, this is the program that we will continue to use. **Students who are at home, and students who are at school, will have access to the same program.** How this looks in reality, will depend on the number of students on site and the number at home. Teachers in each year level will work together to cater for students on site and at home. This may mean that your child will not on every occasion be taught at school, or communicated with at home, by their usual teacher. However, regular engagement with their 'own' teacher will also be maintained. The curriculum in core learning areas delivered at school, and provided at home, will be the same.

Beyond this, it is difficult at this time to determine exactly what the interaction between home and school will look like. It will largely depend on i) how many children are learning at home and at school; (ii) how long remote learning continues; and (iii) what the needs of students are and how these might change over time. **On Tuesday next week, year level teachers will provide the online resources for week one and outline their planned communication strategy.**

We have been given guidelines on how to approach schooling in Term 2 from three different authorities. The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), has provided "[advice on reducing the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools](#)", The Western Australian Government has provided a "[Plan for Term 2](#)", and the Department of Education has provided "[Term 2, 2020 Operating Guidelines for Western Australian Public Schools](#)". The information in these documents is mostly the same, but in some areas, just a little bit different. Principals have been given authority to adapt these guidelines to suit their school's context.

At West Leederville PS we have read, shared and discussed these documents with our staff and the School Board. We plan to work together as a whole staff - teachers, education assistants, cleaners, gardeners and all support staff - to implement the strategies that are possible with primary school aged children, on our school sites (Woolwich Street and Dodd Street). Please note, several of our teachers were on leave in Term 1 due to the fact that they, or someone they are a carer for, fell into the government's categories of a high risk/vulnerable group. The decision over whether they return to the site in Term 2 is one for them to make in consultation with the health professionals they work with, and we will continue to support them in what is right for their individual situations. When appropriate, affected classes will be informed.

Following is a table that we have compiled to give you an insight into our plans to begin Term 2 on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April. This is an evolving situation and will change as our circumstances change, eg. number of students in attendance, success or otherwise of implemented strategies, and of course changes in approach as directed by the Western Australian Government.

CAN DO	CAN'T DO
<b>Physical distancing</b>	
We can separate student desks as far as possible within the restraints of each classroom and surrounding areas.	We cannot achieve 1.5m distancing between children within classrooms. The more children in attendance, the closer they will be.
We can use our open classrooms, verandahs, library, hall and outdoor areas to provide further opportunity for social distancing.	We cannot do this at all times as staffing numbers, timetabling and weather will have an impact.
We can adapt lessons to ensure children are not engaged in group work that requires close collaboration.	We cannot prevent children from moving in and out of each other's space, particularly our younger students.
We can regularly remind children to physically distance.	We cannot prevent children from moving in and out of each other's space, particularly our younger students.
We can cancel all incursions, excursions, interschool events, assemblies and gatherings of large groups.	
We can have all parents drop children at the school gate and not enter grounds. Strategies will be put in place for our K and PP students. All gates will be propped open at the beginning and end of each day.	We cannot monitor adults maintaining social distancing requirements outside the school gates. We ask that you please comply.
We can continue to separate year groups for eating and play times across the school, ie flipped lunch and alternative eating locations. Encourage children to sit with appropriate social distancing.	We cannot prevent children from moving in and out of each other's space, particularly our younger students. This will be even more difficult to achieve whilst they are playing outside.
<b>Cleaning</b>	
We can increase our cleaners' hours to ensure that hand-railings, door knobs and hard surfaces are regularly cleaned throughout the day.	We cannot provide this level of cleaning, across all 21 classrooms and open areas, more than 3 times per day.
We can wash early childhood manipulatives and shared resources each day after use.	We cannot wash manipulatives and shared resources between each child's use during a learning activity.
We can wash sport and art equipment after each lesson. Activities will be selected to require minimal equipment sharing.	We cannot clean equipment during lessons between student use.
We can keep the use of shared musical instruments to a minimum and clean them after use.	We cannot clean equipment during lessons between student use.
We can clean library books as they are returned. Hand sanitiser will be available on entry to the Library.	We cannot ensure books are not handled by more than one child whilst browsing.
We can provide disinfectant and paper towel for children to regularly clean their own desks and iPads.	We cannot quality check their effectiveness.
We can provide more bins and regular emptying of bins to ensure tissues and paper towels are effectively disposed of.	
<b>Hygiene</b>	
We can encourage and teach children to regularly wash their hands and to use hand sanitiser throughout the day.	We cannot monitor whether they do this at times when they are not directly supervised, or following a trip to the toilet.
We can discourage the sharing of food and drink. Drink fountains have been disabled.	
We can practise, as adults, social distancing and encourage this in our students.	We cannot use personal protective gear, other than for medical purposes, or provide it for students.
We can open doors and windows to provide additional ventilation.	We cannot do this at all times due to noise and weather restrictions.
We can send students who a unwell home.	We cannot health check (eg. temperature check) students on arrival at school.

There is no one size fits all approach. The strategies outlined above are what we consider to be practical and reasonable at this point in time. Feedback is welcome, however please do not be offended if we deem strategies suggested as unmanageable; balancing these health considerations while delivering a quality education to all children within the confines of our staffing and other resource limitations is extremely difficult.

There are a number of things that you can do to assist us over the coming weeks:

- Support your child to engage with school activities if learning from home. Ask for help if you need it. Try to enjoy the experience as best you can.
- If sending your child to school:
  - Only send them if they are in good health.
  - Ensure your child has their own drink bottle and food that can be opened without assistance.
  - If possible, provide your child with hand sanitiser. We currently have this available in each room but supply is extremely limited.
  - Refrain from entering the school grounds and practise social distancing. (Plans for drop off and pick up will be developed and communicated on Tuesday).
  - Encourage older students to walk or ride independently.
  - Provide up to date contact details and ensure a parent or carer is readily available to collect an unwell child from school.

Whilst the Western Australian Government can open schools and encourage parents and carers to send their children, each family must assess the risk and make their own decision. Being mindful of safety for others, however, must be paramount in our actions in the coming weeks. It is our collective responsibility to ensure the highest level of personal accountability and hygiene.

Please be assured that whatever decision you make, taking into account your family context, the information provided above and by other sources, it will be the right one for you and your family and we support you in your choice. Please remember that if you or your child is feeling anxious our school psychologist has previously provided some useful links and resources. These can be found on our school [website](#).

In this unpredictable and rapidly changing situation we will update, change and adapt our approach to curriculum delivery and safety precautions as required. This may need to be on a daily basis!

Please respond to the [survey](#) distributed by the Skoolbag app earlier this week, if you have not already done so, to confirm your plans for next week. If you have changed your mind since you completed the survey, that's okay, please resubmit your intentions via the following link: [Updated attendance plan](#)

Kind regards,

Fiona Kelly  
Principal  
23 April, 2020