

GLENELG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Diagonal Road Glenelg East SA 5045

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28-4-2020

Dear families,

I trust that all children and all families have had a good start to Term 2, whether Learning at Home or Learning at School.

Current numbers

On the final day of Term 1 (Thu 9th April), our information was that 49% of students would be Learning at School. Yesterday, we had 69% of students attend school, and today (Tue 28th April) that figure is 74%.

Structure of school classes

In my 22nd April update, I wrote *"It's probable that we will not be able to continue with our go-kart model if many people change their decision..."* and *"Significantly increased numbers of children at school above the 'previously expected 398 students' of course require significantly more face-to-face teachers and significantly more classrooms/learning areas. We would need to revert back to our 'Start of 2020' class structures, including composite classes."*

Yesterday we did indeed need to revert back to our 'Start of 2020' class structures, including composite classes. The whole teaching staff carefully looked at a huge number of aspects at an after school staff meeting yesterday, and we can see that we will need to remain in our 'Start of 2020' class structures. One of the 'silver linings' of this situation is that teachers can still use some of the brilliant and creative ideas from the go-kart model. Accordingly, there might be some subtle changes to the way children are learning at school in some year levels.

Learning at Home packs

Learning at Home will continue as planned for those families taking that option. I saw many parents collecting the 'week 1 and week 2' Learning at Home packs today, which is great. Later we will let Learning at Home families know the process for returning the packs next week and collecting (at the same time) the 'Week 3 and Week 4' packs.

Canteen to re-open

We have received information from Department staff that given our increased numbers, we can re-open the canteen. It will take a while for Caroline to be able to re-stock all items and prepare the canteen again, so the first day for the canteen re-opening will be Thursday. There will be a slightly modified menu available for the first couple of weeks until supply companies are able to resume all of their usual deliveries. Orders can be done through paper bags/cash OR by the Qkr! app, as always.

Playgrounds, adults on site

We are following directions from the Department for Education and SA Health. We have installed signs at all gates and boundary saying that our playground equipment is only for school and OSHC students. We have been provided with extra cleaning for the playground equipment and this extra cleaning is happening each day. We also continue to ask parents to say farewell to children in the morning at the various school boundaries, and have a meeting place after school at a boundary. We do understand that occasionally there may be a special situation requiring a parent to accompany children into the school grounds, but we sincerely request that this be kept to an absolute minimum. We are definitely still needing parents to not come into classroom buildings with children, thank you.

Children washing hands

Staff continue to explain to children the need to wash hands thoroughly and frequently and continue to give them many opportunities to wash their hands. Generally, we have noticed that some children who weren't at school right at the end of Term 1 seem less aware of this than children who were at school, so a reminder at home about the importance of correct hand washing would also be much appreciated. Soap supplies are being maintained in all toilets and extra signs have been put up to guide students.

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Mother's Day stall

The fantastic P+F group had already organised some Mother's Day gifts for children to purchase and bring home. However, with the current difficulties around having volunteers at school and some other logistical matters, we will postpone this stall. The P+F group now intend to also purchase some 'male' gifts and run a 'Random act of Kindness day' (gift stall) later in the year. This would mean Father's Day and Mother's Day is not really a focus as such but rather a thank someone special in your life (special acknowledgement for circumstances this year).

Kind regards,
Anthony Fischer
Principal