



Sheoak Grove Primary School

Newsletter

Week 3, Term 2

It has been so great to have our students back with us to start our second term. We began the term with 68% of our students attending but that has grown every day so that we have had 95% of our students return to school over the first 3 weeks.

All that is missing are our parents who can't yet come through our school gates. We are very much looking forward to when we can see you all at our classrooms once again.

We have welcomed seven new students who have enrolled in our school over the past two weeks, and we hope that they have enjoyed getting to know everyone. It certainly seems to have been the case!

We continue our strange journey through our first year thanks to the COVID challenges that the world has experienced over the past few months. We had updated information about the restrictions as they relate to schools yesterday and I wrote to parents about that in both hard copy and as a Connect notice. This newsletter will contain some further detail in relation to that.

Attendance

As you would no doubt be aware by now, from Monday May 18 all students are expected to attend school, except for those students *medically referred* to learn from home. Students with medical conditions who are not able to attend school will be supported to learn from home. That support will come through the *School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health*.

As we are returning to a normal attendance expectation, students not attending school without a medical reason will be marked as absent. Learning programs won't be provided in that situation.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

Parents and non-essential visitors are still restricted from coming onto school grounds, so we need to continue with our current arrangements for students coming to school and leaving in the afternoon.

Our Kindy students will continue to enter and exit the school at the gates near the administration building, and our pre-primary students from the gates between our Early Childhood rooms and Block 4. Our staff will continue to be there to greet them and walk them to class. For parents of primary aged students (Years 1-6) we continue to encourage families to have arrangements that suit your family and are clearly understood by children so that safety remains a priority.

School Events and Activities

Unfortunately, things like excursions, camps, carnivals and swimming lessons are still not accessible for schools. We are continuing to look for alternative ways to provide some of those opportunities for our students in modified ways.

For example, we will look at running our Cross Country Carnival in very small groups to meet the COVID restrictions. That may take a while to complete, but we'll get there in the end!

Assemblies, in their normal form, are still not allowed to occur. However, we will again modify our format to limit our assemblies to the host class and the merit award winners. We will stream it into our classrooms for other students to watch and on social media for parents to view. In fact, we got so much positive feedback from last week's effort that we will look at continuing this after all the restrictions have been lifted. At the moment thought, there are a few issues we might need

to negotiate before we can commit to doing that every time.

Third Party Agreements

We have some third party agreements with junior sporting clubs and community groups that cannot be restarted at this stage, and some that can under some stringent conditions. Those clubs and groups will communicate that to their members.

Canteen

Happily, we can restart our canteen arrangements with Bizzee Breeze canteen from Monday. The online ordering procedure remains the same, and if you are not familiar with it, you can find out about it and view the menu on our website [here](#).

Reporting to Parents, Semester 1

The restrictions and ever-changing environment that schools have been negotiating since the middle of last term has meant that there are changed expectations on semester reports across the school system. This is difficult for us at Sheoak Grove because we were very much looking forward to our first full semester reporting cycle.

Our staff will be examining how we best report to parents over the next week and information about what to expect will be in our next newsletter.

Health, Hygiene and Cleaning

We will continue to focus on our hygiene messages with our students. These include:

- wash hands with soap and running water when hands are visibly dirty
- wash hands with soap and water and use alcohol based hand rub (ABHR), before and after eating or prior to food preparation

- wash hands with soap and water after going to the toilet
- avoid using handkerchiefs
- cough and sneeze with a tissue or bent elbow, dispose of used tissues immediately, and use ABHR or soap and water
- avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose
- if unwell, avoid contact with others

Our school is being cleaned constantly through the day as per the COVID-19 guidelines for schools.

Children's Crossing on Baldivis Road

Parents and community members might remember that this was officially approved last term, but our progress toward getting our Children's Crossing was hampered by the COVID restrictions. I can happily say that it is now firmly back on the agenda and we are waiting to have a meeting with the relevant Police Unit so that our crossing can be installed. I will keep you updated with further progress as soon as it is possible.

2021 Kindy Enrolments

Applications for enrolment into our 2021 Kindy program are now open. Parents can download the application forms from our website [here](#). Applications will be open until the end of July. If you have any queries about the process, please contact Linda, our School Officer, on 9523 5400.

Our fantastic Year 5/6 class from Room 14 will be our first 'assembly' host next week. They will be the only class actually in the assembly area, but it will be streamed into the other rooms and to our community. We hope you can watch along on social media! Please keep a look out for details next week.

Craig Stanners
Principal