



Walliston Primary School

Dianella Road, Walliston , WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6076

2022 COVID UPDATE – HIGH CASE LOAD LEVEL 1

Dear parent/carer

Further to my previous COVID-19 communications, you may have seen the announcement of the high caseload settings in place across WA as of Tuesday 8 February 2022. This includes additional measures to keep our schools open and providing face-to-face learning for your children.

In the current settings, parents and carers can no longer enter classrooms, including to volunteer. Volunteering in our school kitchen garden is still permitted, while following the WA Government mask wearing mandates, and physical distancing from other adults.

You are allowed on school grounds for drop-off and pick-up in outdoor locations, but please physically distance, avoid gathering where possible and follow mask wearing requirements.

We are currently planning and implementing further ways to minimise the risk of COVID-19 entering or being transmitted at schools including:

- moving parent-teacher interviews to over the phone;
- changing indoor face-to-face events;
- cancelling or postponing school camps;
- limiting the mingling of groups.

We are working through these changes and you will receive further communications as the details are confirmed. For more information on the high caseload protocols visit [WA.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au).

This morning our school received the operating guidelines around the new directions on what school settings will look like under Level 1 of High Case Loads. Along with this generic letter from the Department of Education, I have contextualised these new directions and what it means for Walliston Primary School.

- No Parents or carers in classrooms and parents are asked to wear face masks when dropping off at classroom doors, especially if physical distancing cannot be achieved. This has worked really well for the past two mornings, with feedback from staff stating that students are settling into morning routines with excellent maturity and independence.
- Parent Welcome and Information Sessions were cancelled on Tuesday 8th February. Staff will share their slide show or information notes to you by Friday 11th February. Either as a package sent home or via SeeSaw. Please remember our parent information booklet is also located on our school website.
- Staff will share a link to their class SeeSaw accounts, we ask all parents to make sure you connect to your child's class SeeSaw account by Wednesday 16th February. This will assist in communication from class to home, as well as sharing links to possible remote learning lessons. I have asked staff to limit their communication on Seesaw to between school operating hours from 8:00am and 4:30pm, so I know that they will switch off from work when at home, and focus on their own families.
- To avoid adult gatherings on school site, and in partnership with our school P&C, we had to cancel our 'Welcome Back Picnic' for new and existing families.
- Our school already implements different zones for recess and lunch play areas, and our students sit with their classes when eating lunch. Currently, this will not change.



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- Our teaching staff will only conduct their after school meetings within their Phases of Learning, to avoid all staff being located in one room.
- Instead of cancelling our school assembly, the school will reschedule our first assembly to Friday 25th February. This assembly will be conducted as a WebEx assembly and will be hosted by Room 11. As in 2020, our school will continue to look for innovative ways to maintain connection with our school community. An invite to our WebEx assembly will be shared in next week's newsletter. Please understand parents will not be able to attend, but you will be able to watch from the comfort of your home or work place.
- As of today, we are still planning to go ahead with our Rooms 4 and 6 excursion on the 9th March. Our 6 students will still be able to attend their leadership excursion on Friday 4th March, however their leadership breakfast will be postponed until further notice.
- Classroom teachers are preparing for remote learning by creating their classes on CONNECT. Our year 6 students will soon utilise CONNECT for their learning, as we have incorporated CONNECT, as part of high school preparation. Other classes will introduce CONNECT, when the need arises for remote learning.
- If possible, please download the school App from School Star. We will share how to download the App in next week's newsletter. We understand that some phone operating systems cannot download the App and we are currently working with the Department of Education on rectifying those issues. Our school website will also be a form of communication.
- If parents need to get in contact with their classroom teachers to discuss their child's learning needs, feel free to get in contact with your classroom teacher to coordinate a time for a phone interview.
- Under the new guidelines, choir and school band will be postponed until further notice or when further clarification can be provided.
- Thank you to those classes who have managed to set up a P&C Class representative already. Our P&C executive team are working with classroom teachers to finalise and setup P&C Class Reps before the end of the school week. Information about the P&C Class Reps will be sent out this week.

Finally, I would like to thank the school community for their flexibility and understanding as we manage these new directions on how our school will operate under Level 1 of High Case Loads for Schools. If school settings continue to change I will keep our school community informed as soon as possible. I would also like thank our P&C executive team for their support and communication last Monday, as we manage the additional measures that were placed on schools late on a Monday afternoon.

Thank you for your understanding as we take the necessary steps to keep our school safe and open for learning.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 9291 2000.

Craig Mainard
Principal
9th February 2022