



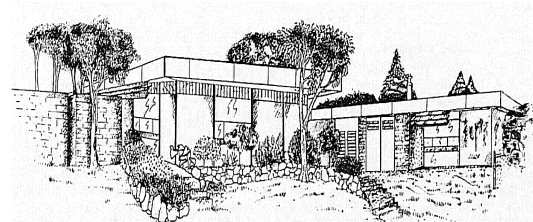
# Southwell Primary School

26 Grandpre Crescent, Hamilton Hill 6163

☎ 9236 9400

Email: [Southwell.ps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Southwell.ps@education.wa.edu.au)

Web: [www.southwellps.wa.edu.au](http://www.southwellps.wa.edu.au)



**Principal: Elizabeth Melville**  
**Manager Corporate Services:**  
**Janine Hart**

## Newsletter

*Week: 3 Term 2*

*15 May 2020*



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I want to thank you all for your support in what was one of the most unusual starts to a school term we have ever seen. Together, we have been able to make the best of this situation and ensure your child's safety and continuity of learning.

Today, the State Government announced changes to education based on a review of current arrangements and updated health advice.

As of Monday, 18 May 2020 all students are expected to attend school, except for those students medically referred to learn from home.

This means students are either:

- at school;
- have a medical referral to learn from home; or
- recorded as absent if they do not attend.

Over the last three weeks we have seen 84% of our students return to school, which has been fantastic.

Current health advice states that schools remain safe for staff and students and should remain open. We want to make sure all children get the best education possible, which is why attending school is so important. We are here to make sure all children are learning and there's no doubt, schools are the best place for them to learn.

For parents with medical advice that their child should not attend school, we will work with you in partnership with the School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health to support your child's learning from home. If you feel your child is in this category, please do not hesitate to contact me and we will work together on next steps.

If your child does not attend school without a medical reason, they will be marked as absent and will not be provided a learning program.

The extra cleaning and hygiene practices implemented at the start of Term 2 will continue and as part of the social distancing measures, we continue to ask parents/carers to drop children at the school gate and not enter the school grounds.

The State Government will continue to make decisions based on the best health advice.

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward.

If you have any questions please to contact Southwell Primary on 9236 9400.

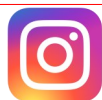
Kind regards,

*Elizabeth Melville*

Principal



Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Instagram

*We would like to acknowledge the Noongar people who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders past and present of the Noongar nation and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians who are or may be present.*

## *School Development Day*

Southwell will hold a School Development day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May. We run these days generally on a Friday or Monday so that families can plan a long weekend.

We will review classroom practice, school data and the school's focus areas to create a culture of shared goals within our school.

We trust you will enjoy quality uninterrupted time together.

## *Attendance*

With so many recent changes to education some families are finding difficulty in getting children to school. Refusal to go to school probably won't go away by itself. Without a plan, your child risks school drop-out, poor school performance, problems with friendships, family conflict and mental illness.

You can help your child get to school by working with school staff. When you face this sort of difficulty, talk to your child's teacher or me for ideas and advice. We have lots of experience with children who refuse to attend school.

If you feel your child needs ongoing support to stay engaged in school, ask us about the best ways to support your child's attendance. You may like to ask to be referred to other support services like the school psychologist or counsellor so please check in at the office to arrange this one. Another strategy is to set up regular appointments with the class teacher or principal. This will help you and the school check your child's progress and ongoing support needs.

If your child is refusing to go to school it can be hard on you and the whole family. If you can find ways to look after yourself, you'll be better able to look after your child.

Here are some ideas:

- Look after yourself with enough rest, some physical activity, a healthy diet and some time to yourself. If you're feeling well and relaxed, you'll be in better shape to help your child.
- Remember, a child refusing to go to school is a challenge for families. Stick with your efforts to get your child to go. Keep in mind how important it is for your child to go to school.
- Talk to your child's teacher or the principal. Teachers have lots of experience, they can provide ideas and advice about children who refuse to attend.



*Every Child*

*Every Chance*

*Every Day*



# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) *Update*

Dear parents and students

## Updated Advice from the Chief Health Officer

Schools have now been open for students since the commencement of Term 2 and I am very encouraged by the way the school community, parents and students are caring for their health and attending school in a responsible way. This is building community confidence in the safety of our schools with the overall attendance rate reaching over 82%.

WA recently recorded 14 days with only 2 reported cases, both of whom were rapidly identified and are in isolation. With over 56,000 negative tests and only 7 active cases, there is no evidence of community transmission.

The WA State Government has recently announced further decisions about the easing of restrictions in our state as part of a phased approach in the management of the pandemic. These decisions have been based on public health advice and will continue to be carefully monitored in the weeks ahead.

Public health measures already in place to protect the community will remain a focus during this time, including broad testing, comprehensive contact tracing when a case is identified, isolation and quarantine measures where required, and education about social distancing and hand hygiene. Plans remain in place to ensure immediate response to any reported infections in the school setting when needed to prevent the spread of any illness.

I continue to recommend that schools should remain open to all students and families should be encouraged to return their children to the classroom. If your child is more vulnerable due to health problems or you have a vulnerable adult living in your home, then I would recommend seeking advice from your specialist medical practitioner as to whether returning to school remains the best option for you.

We need to remain diligent during this time and I encourage you to please make sure you keep your child home if they are unwell and, if you or your child have fever, cough or cold symptoms, get tested for COVID-19. We should all continue to follow the social distancing guidelines when interacting with other parents, teachers and school staff.

Thank you again for your leadership and support during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

**DR ANDY ROBERTSON**

Chief Health Officer

May 2020

[health.wa.gov.au](https://health.wa.gov.au)

*Every Child*

*Every Chance*

*Every Day*



## *School Council*

### **You can influence how school is run – join the School Council**

People of the community can influence what happens in classrooms, what happens in grounds and the decisions made by the principal. We have a school council which meets to discuss the development of the school and make decisions. Your ideas could ensure community expectations and the school's priorities reflect the needs of students.

School Council take part in:

- establishing and reviewing the school's objectives, priorities and general policy directions;
- planning financial arrangements necessary to fund those objectives, priorities and directions;
- evaluating the school's performance in achieving those objectives, priorities and directions;
- formulating codes of conduct for students at the school;
- sometimes, helping the principal select teaching staff (if prior approval is given by the Regional Executive Director).

## *Back in the Swing of Things*

Physical Education is back in full swing at Southwell. The students have loved playing basketball together again. We would like to thank our dedicated cleaners for keeping our sport equipment clean during this time.



### *Dates To Remember*

18/5/20 School resumes for everyone.  
29/5/20 Student Development Day.  
1/6/20 Western Australia Day.

### *Merit Awards*

Merit Certificate recipients last week:

Eli Spiers  
Julian Woods  
Temeka Kickett  
Hayley Hassett

Well done everyone!

*Every Child*

*Every Chance*

*Every Day*