

Dear CWSC Families

Meet & Greet

Throughout this week our teachers and support staff have been outside the classrooms from 8:50 - 9:00am and again from 3:00 - 3:10pm to **'meet and greet'** our families. We hope you have been able to introduce yourself to your child's teaching team. Our staff will continue to make themselves available each afternoon at the class line up area or gates. We ask families to respectfully comply with COVID guidelines by maintaining appropriate social distancing and keeping interactions brief. Teachers are looking forward to connecting with our families at our parent information evening on Wednesday 17 February and further at our Parent/Teacher Interviews in Week 5.

COVID Safe School

We operate under ACT Health guidelines and follow the Education Directorate Roadmap.

This currently means:

- Gathering size – visitor numbers must not exceed 500 people (not including students and staff)
- Density requirements – visitors must not exceed one person per two square metres in indoor or outdoor spaces
- Physical distancing – visitors should keep 1.5 metres apart from each other where possible, unless from the same family group.
- Age-appropriate good hygiene practices will be implemented e.g handwashing techniques, using hand sanitiser when entering school, encouraging everyone to cough or sneeze into an elbow or tissue, avoid touching eyes, noses or mouths.
- Students and staff will be asked to stay home if they have any COVID like symptoms. Parents are requested to please not send children to school if they have coughs, colds, runny noses, fevers, are sneezing a lot or feel sick. If an unwell child presents at school parents will be phoned and asked to collect the child.
- Dedicated cleaning services are continuing across the school day – additional cleaning of high touch points such as door handles, handrails, taps etc.
- Families are requested to only enter the school buildings via the front office to seek advice, drop off notes etc or attend an arranged appointment. Parents may only be on the school grounds for 15 minutes without needing to sign in under COVID guidelines.

At CWSC we are:

- Welcoming back volunteers - this needs to be pre-arranged and social distancing and hygiene guidelines followed.
- Resuming assemblies - families of the host class are welcome to attend and must register and social distance whilst in the school.
- Running our Parent Information Evening and Parent/Teacher Interviews - families will be required to register attendance to help with COVID safe numbers onsite and maintain appropriate social distancing.

Drop off and Pick up expectations

We appreciate our families continuing to follow established arrangements from 2020. It is pleasing to see families waiting near the fences or gates and only entering the school grounds when required. We urge everyone to please maintain social distancing while waiting.

Ideally we encourage:

- Students to walk to the carpark or agreed pick up zone and wait for collection

- Preschool families to use the preschool yard entry and exit gates
- Kindergarten families to enter through the main gate and collect students at their class line
- Year 1 and 2 families to collect students via the Madgwick st gate
- Year 3 - 6 families to collect students via the Woodberry Ave gates near the hall or bus shelter.

Please make a plan with your children about the ideal pick up location and stick to it. We will open the gates at 3pm to allow children time to get out of class and move to line up areas, agreed collection points, or walk to the carpark to quickly enter your car.

You may have seen Mr Dean and members of the Leadership team patrolling the main carpark area. We are helping keep your children safe by ensuring everyone parks and drives safely. Please use the drop off and pick up zone appropriately by remaining in your car. This is not a parking area and you will be asked to move on. It is equally important not to double park or stop in the middle of the driveway for students to get in this causes frustrations for other road users and is dangerous.

Communication

Our main form of communication will be via email and our newsletter. Reminders will be posted on Seesaw. We will celebrate learning via Seesaw, Google Classroom and our Schoolzine Newsletter.

We request that families continue to contact the front office by phone on 6142 0404 for important or urgent messages or by emailing charlesweston.info@ed.act.edu.au

The best way to communicate with class teachers is to see them at the gates or class line up area before or after school or to send them an email. Please do not use Seesaw messaging as teachers will not respond.

Students with mobile phones are required to drop them off at the front office by 9am where they are kept in a secure location. They can be collected at 3pm. Any messages between children and families during school time must go via the front office.

During the second half of 2020 we experienced an elevated level of frustration and at times aggressive communication from some community members. Examples of this include shouting at staff members (particularly front office and in the carpark), aggressive emails, offensive and disrespectful communication. While these communications form a small percentage of our overall communications, the impact of these communications is extremely damaging and distressing to recipients. Charles Weston staff have been advised to exit communications should they become hostile or disrespectful. We acknowledge that things don't always go as planned when dealing with children aged between 4 and 13. Schools are complex environments and when issues arise the staff will respond professionally and with care. Our school GROW expectations are an important aspect of our broader school community. We encourage our entire community to use a Growth Mindset, be Respectful, Organised, and considerate of Wellbeing. These values should form the basis of all communication.

Our Leadership Team

We are available before and after school at the gates and class line areas. Please contact the front office to book an appointment with us as this will need to fit in around our teaching loads. Please feel free to send any queries or feedback to us via email. We will do our best to respond in a timely manner.

School Principal - Nicole Nicholson

Deputy Principals - Anne Gummow and Maz Smith

Executive Teachers - Bianca Bailetti, Jonathan Price, Jen Hearne

Business Manager - Jemma Robbins

Key Dates

This term we have many important dates for families to be aware of and add to their diaries. Please note that Term 1 is only 9 weeks long and ends on Thursday 1 April leading into the Easter long weekend.

Week 2

Wednesday 10/2 - Friday 12/2: Year 5 & 6 Camp Cooba

Week 3

Wednesday 17/2: Parent Information Evening (5:15pm - 6:00pm and 6:30 - 7:15pm)

Friday 19/2: Year 6 Parliament Induction Assembly

Week 4

Wednesday 24/2: Restorative Practices Parent Workshop (8:30 - 9:30am or 7:00 - 8:00pm)

Week 5

Monday - Friday: Parent Teacher Interviews

Monday 1/3: Swimming Carnival (Years 3 - 6, plus year 2 students born in 2013)

Friday 5/3: Year 2 Assembly

Week 6

Wednesday 10/3: Athletics Carnival

Week 7

Friday 19/3: Year 4 Assembly

Week 8

Tuesday 23/3: Cross Country Carnival

Thursday 25/3: South Weston Regional Swimming Carnival

Thank you for helping us to have such a positive start to the 2021 school year and your support in providing a safe and healthy school environment for our students and staff. We will keep you informed of any changes to the further easing of restrictions and what they will mean for our school. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with our amazing Charles Weston Community.

CWSC Leadership Team