



Annesley Junior School

HERITAGE | VALUES | INNOVATION

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25 March 2020

Dear Annesley Families,

I am so grateful for the encouraging messages of support that we have received over the past few days. Thank you!

What I am certain about in this time of great uncertainty in our world is the unwavering need for kindness and creative problem solving. These two things are needed now, more than ever. I have been moved to tears, literally, by random acts of kindness in the Annesley community. I have been blown away by our students' initiative, driven by their strengths and passions, to help and support others.

Today our staff team supported Bree, the owner of local café and our lunch order supplier Gather and Graze, by doing a bulk order of take away tea, coffee, hot chocolates and chai lattes. There were 60+ of them! Gather and Graze have now closed their doors and determined to re-open once, as a nation, we have a clearer picture of things moving forward.

To those families that have been impacted by the shutdowns and this vicious economic downturn, my heart goes out to you in this time of uncertainty. Please rest assured that we are working hard behind the scenes to support you and your children as best as we can. We will provide more information on how we will be doing this soon.

Children are so inquisitive and aware. It is vital that we continue to be open, honest and communicate with our children. I encourage you to keep asking your child how they are feeling and reassuring them of your love for them. It's vital that as adults we are intentional about 'checking in' with each other too. Not the 'how are you...I'm good thanks.' But genuinely 'check in' with each other, actively listening to the response and supporting each other when the answer comes.

I understand that some families have decided to keep their children home and proactively self-isolate. I am able to share that we have 60% of our Primary School students present on site today. Attendance across our ELC is lower today, with under 40% here. Those that are here are positively engaging in the learning and teaching program. Our staff team are working hard to ensure as 'normal' experience as they can for our students, are sharing what they can via Seesaw with families who are off site and collaborating in creative ways as they continue their preparations for Distance Learning in the event of a school closure. I am grateful for my staff team who are working hard to spread students across indoor and outdoor learning spaces, implementing social distancing, as best as they can with children.

In the event of a forced closure we will provide students in Years 3-7 with a School iPad to support their Distance Learning. Families must have signed the Annesley iPads for Distance Learning Agreement, which will be circulated shortly, prior to devices being released. At this stage in our Distance Learning planning process, we will not be sending School iPads home until a school closure is enforced. This is subject to change due to the changing advice received.

Yours sincerely



LUKE RITCHIE
Principal

