

1/5/2020



Dear parents and caregivers,

When I hear about the ongoing disastrous response to COVID-19 in other countries, I remain so grateful for the fact that we live where we do. South Australia seems to have done remarkably well during this pandemic. However, we do need to keep following government restrictions and remain very careful.

We have had many students return to school this week, and we are anticipating more next week. For your information today we have 88% of students at school. We continue to respect parents' decisions about where their children are learning, and teachers will continue to provide a quality curriculum for all students. Our circumstances do seem to be settling, and so I want to let you know my thoughts about the next few weeks.

We really value assemblies, and we know that students love preparing and presenting them, and you love to see them. As we can't invite you to assemblies, we are going to trial virtual ones. Several teachers are exploring which platform might work best for us, and we are planning to have an assembly in week 3.

If South Australia continues to have no new cases of COVID-19, we will begin to invite external providers into the school in week 4. This will include staff providing additional support to students, the choir trainer, Maria's Kitchen and Footsteps dance company. Footsteps has organised their classes to ensure that physical contact between students will not happen. Of course, departmental advice may have an impact on those decisions over the next few weeks.

As I understand it, reviews for students who receive additional funding for learning support have had their review dates extended because of the disruptions caused by COVID-19. That means that the funding is likely to continue to early next year. I hope that that is good news for families.

We continue to have additional cleaning during the school day and after school. The playground is also being cleaned every day before recess. We still have a great deal of soap and we ask students to wash their hands before eating, before playing, after playing and often when they move to another area, such as the library.

Mentioning the library reminds me that I have quite a few thanks to offer! Parents and carers, I have so many thanks for you. Thank you for ensuring that your children have returned the extra books that they borrowed. It makes it so much easier if we don't have to chase them. Thank you for not entering the buildings. I know that it can make it difficult for your child to say goodbye in the mornings, but we are going to continue to limit how many people much use 'touch points' to keep everyone here safe. I'd also like to thank you again for all the wonderful feedback that the school continues to have. You have been so kind and so generous, and every member of staff appreciates that.

As much as I knew that we had a stellar staff here at school, they have really shone during this time. The demand on them to be flexible and adaptable, as well as having huge workloads, has been relentless, and I have been inspired by the professional ways in which they have responded. We are so lucky to have such good staff at the school.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Leah Kennewell  
Principal, Aldgate Primary School  
Leah.kennewell769@schools.sa.edu.au  
01/05/2020



Government of South Australia  
Department for Education



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education

Department for Education and Child Development T/A South Australian Government Schools, CRICOS Provider No: 00018A

