



## Urgent COVID -19 Update 1

8 August 2021

Dear parents and caregivers,

Following the Queensland Government's announcement that COVID-19 restrictions, including a local government area lockdown, will be in effect in Cairns region, our **school will be closed to normal student attendance from tomorrow 09/08/2021.**

At this stage, the **restrictions will remain in place for 3 days.** However, we have been planning for events like these for some time now and can continue to provide educational continuity for your child throughout any period of school closure.

The school will be closed to the majority of students, staff and parents. Children of essential workers and vulnerable children will still be allowed on-site to be supervised for online learning.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> of August will be used by our staff to prepare for this period of home-based learning. On this day there will be no normal lessons conducted and there is no requirement for students to undertake any specific lessons or activities. However, students wishing to do so may access a wide range of resources via the department's Learning@home website.

From Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August, all students will begin Learning@home. **I have attached some information below which will outline our planned approach** and your teacher will contact you directly via email/ phone for information specific to your child's class/year group.

All sports and extracurricular activities will cease during the closure period.

Your child's teacher will be your main point of contact during this time however, if you have any specific concerns or are unable to supervise your child at home, please contact our school's office on 40347333 to discuss this further.

It is important we continue to follow COVID-safe measures including good hygiene, physical distancing, staying at home if unwell and following health directives such as wearing face masks when advised.

If you, or a member of your family, are feeling unwell or displaying symptoms of COVID-19, please get tested immediately and stay home and isolate until you receive the results and your symptoms resolve.

Further advice, such as information on local COVID-19 testing centres, is available from the [Queensland Health COVID-19 website](#).

For assistance in languages other than English, please refer to the [National Translating and Interpreting Service](#) and the [Translated Australian COVID-19 information and resources](#). I will continue to provide further updates via email and through the school website.

I thank all parents/carers for your support and cooperation, and look forward to welcoming our school community back as soon as we are safely able to do so.



Yours sincerely,



**Mr MATT THOMPSON**  
Principal

## **Whitfield State School – Learning at Home program further information**

### **Who are considered essential workers and/or vulnerable children?**

For most students, this lockdown means that they will not attend school, the only students attending school in this time are children of essential workers or vulnerable children.

Essential workers are only those that absolutely must continue to attend their workplace during this difficult time. The Department of Education has asked all parents to consider the Chief Health Officer's advice and stay home with your children if you can.

If you are an essential worker and need to send your child to school you must ensure your child is well and not displaying any signs of illness.

Vulnerable students would include students identified by the school who have pre-identified arrangements or specific circumstances and students who are currently receiving services from Child Safety including children who are subject to a child protection order.

Our school will be providing supervision for these children if they attend.

### **Learning at Home – Get ready**

For the majority of our school community we will be moving to remote learning, while remaining open for children of essential workers and vulnerable children.

Our teachers will seek to minimize disruption to student learning and support families by providing some routines and connection. Parents and carers can expect our school to implement both on-line and off-line learning approaches. A graphic below will explain the different approaches.

To allow for this learning at home to commence the following will occur:

**Day 1:** Preparing – Parent Reference and Student resource packs will be printed and the school will send a text message to families when these are ready to be collected from our drive through resource collection. Small packs of pencils, eraser and sharpener will be available. Materials will also be provided on our school's website.

**Day 2 and 3:** Learning to learn remotely – Teaching staff will commence activities in both online and offline modes. Information about how to access these will be provided in parent reference packs provided when resources are collected.

Although this lockdown is currently only for 3 days, when undertaking our contingency planning we have developed our work for 5 days, and so parents will receive work for this time period. There is no expectation that all work be completed.

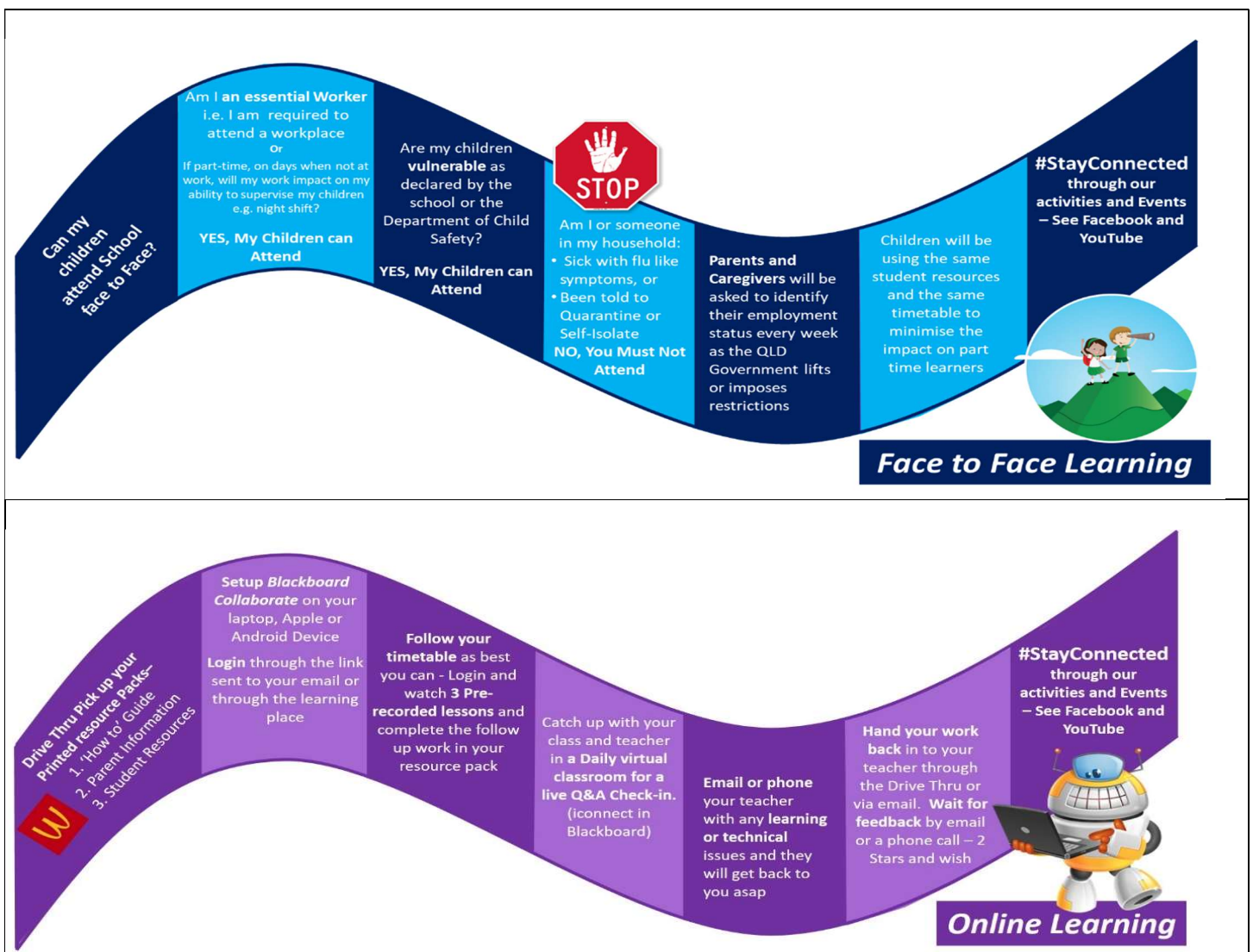
For all students your child's teachers will continue to engage students with remote learning and I would like to thank you for your help, support and encouragement.

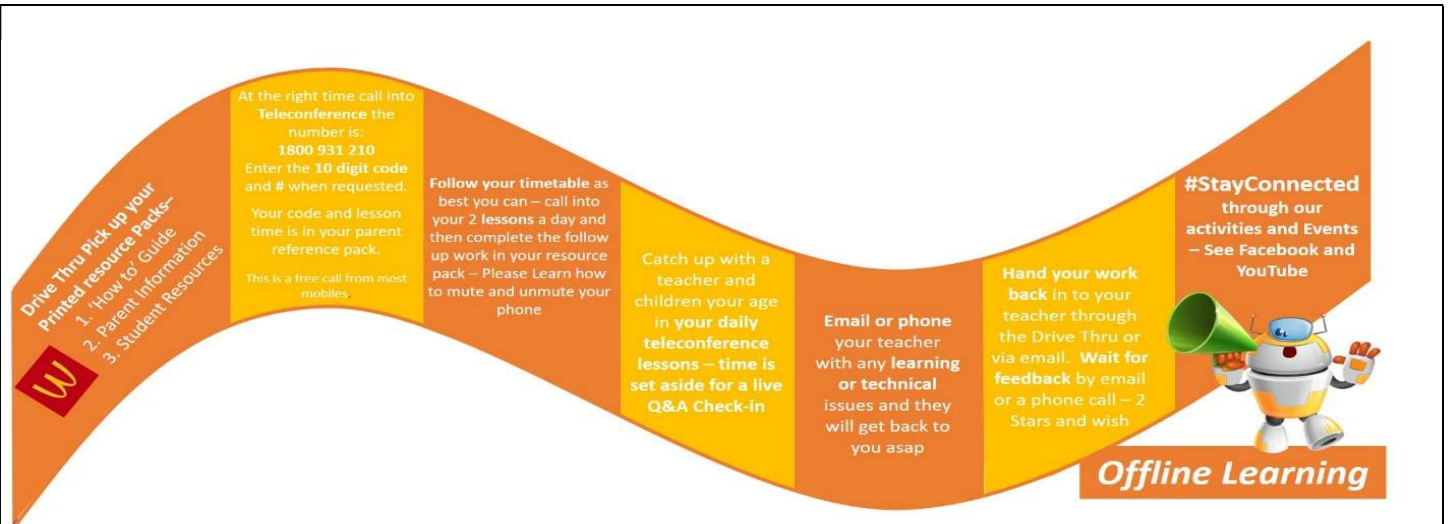
If you would like to support your child's learning you can also visit the Department of Education's [learning@home](https://www.education.qld.gov.au/learning-at-home) website. This site contains a range of student learning material and other high-quality education websites.

Further information on supporting your child, maintaining healthy learning routines and setting up a learning space at home can be found at <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home/wellbeing-of-students>

### Parent/ Carer, Visitor entry restrictions

As with last year, parent, carer and visitor access to the school's grounds is not permitted. Staff will be available at school gates to support children going to their rooms and additional supervision will be provided.





As part of our remote learning process :

Whitfield will be asking parents of students who are learning from home either through **ON or OFF Line modes** to collect *Student Resource Packs* and *Parent Reference Packs* by:

1. **Stopping at an Entrance** on Marino Street (Main or Prep entrance) or entering **Staff Car Park**
2. **Don't** get out of your car
3. Let the staff waiting know **your children's names, grades**
4. **Hand back any old resource packs**
5. **Receive the correct new packs**
6. Drive away

**Drive Thru – Pick-up Points**

Marino Street – Prep Entrance = **Surnames A- G**  
 Marino Street – Main Entrance = **Surnames H- M**  
 Marino Street – Staff Carpark = **Surnames N – Z**

