



Friday, 15 May 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As restrictions have continued to be lifted and the majority of our students have now returned to classroom learning, it has been heartening to see the excitement of students and teachers alike as our school buzzes with life.

While it has been challenging for all in our community to adapt to the ongoing changes, there is an overwhelming sense of gratitude for the leadership and shared community responsibility that has meant that children can return to school, that parents can return to work and that we can all begin to enjoy time together again.

We hope that you have felt supported to decide whether to send your child to school or to engage in their learning from home, depending on your own family's circumstances. Our school staff have certainly done their very best to deliver a quality Catholic education to all our students, irrespective of whether they were being taught at school or at home.

Since the start of Term Two, we have been actively planning for all students to return to classroom learning as soon as recommended by Government and health authorities. As the health and safety of all our students and staff is our highest priority, we have now introduced a range of sustainable cleaning, hygiene and safety measures and have made some changes to our school practices that are designed to minimise risks of COVID-19 transmission in our school environment now and into the future.

On 11 May, following a comprehensive School Readiness Review of all Catholic schools in Western Australia, Catholic Education Western Australia has determined that Catholic schools across the State will return to classroom teaching and learning for all students from **Monday, 18 May**.

This recommendation aligns with the latest advice from both State and Commonwealth Governments and has been made with the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and our whole community as the first priority.

Students may continue to learn from home if they, or a member of their immediate family, are immune-compromised or are otherwise considered at-risk medically. Parents who plan to keep their children home to continue learning remotely are asked to please contact the school. These students will continue to be supported by school staff, however, from 18 May, these students may not be engaged in the same learning program delivered in classrooms.

If your child is worried about attending school due to COVID-19, please remember you can find resources prepared by CEWA's Psychology Team here <https://covid19.cewa.edu.au/wellbeing/>. These may assist in supporting your child at this time, and we would encourage you to speak to your child's teacher if you have concerns about how they are coping with being back at school or would like to know more about support available.

As you are aware, parents and caregivers must continue to drop and pick up students from Camp Road or George Street gates (near the service station) only and **must NOT** enter the school grounds.

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Onsite operations will continue with one slight change to Pre-primary, Year 1 and Year 2 pick up times:

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten @ 2:30pm

Pre-primary @ 2:40pm

Years 1 and 2 @ 2:50pm

Years 3-6 @ 3:00pm

Students with older siblings.

- If a child has an older sibling, then you may collect all children at the earlier time, i.e., 2:30pm or 2:40pm. If an older child is leaving earlier than 3:00pm, please advise the front office so we can have your child ready to take to the Church driveway exit.

Please note, if your child is in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 (without a younger sibling), he/she will not be released before 3:00pm. Please park in the parallel bays if you arrive early.

- If you need to pick up your child/ren during the day, please phone the office and we will walk them out through the side gate near the Church.

We are waiting on direction from the Federal Minister for Education with regard to reporting for Semester One. Please be aware your child's report will look quite different to what you have been used to. We will communicate any information to you as soon as possible.

Please find attached advice for parents from Catholic Education Western Australia and the Government of Western Australia Department of Health.

I am certain you share our staff's joy and gratitude that our students are able to return to school to resume classroom learning together. As members of our school community, we ask that you join us in continuing to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic at home and abroad.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Joy Ketteringham
Principal

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