

PARENT AND CAREGIVER Term Two Update

April 21, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our school staff are truly blessed with the support and appreciation that so many parents and caregivers have shared as we journey together through this challenging time. We remain ever aware of and grateful for the important hands-on role you are playing in assisting your children in engaging in the learning we have prepared at this time, as well as supporting them through any anxiety or worry they may be feeling.

As you may be aware, Premier Mark McGowan announced Term Two arrangements for **public schools** in Western Australia on Friday 17 April. The following sets out St Joseph's School's arrangements for Term Two, which reflects the guiding principles of Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA):

1. The health and safety of our students and staff remain our first priority.
2. All students will continue to be provided with a quality Catholic education.
3. Decisions regarding school education will continue to be informed by national and state-based health and education advice, and align with the National Principles for School Education.

Tuesday, 28 April has been declared by the Department of Education and Training as a Pupil Free Day. Therefore, when Term Two for **students commences on Wednesday, 29 April** teachers will provide on-line/work packs learning until Friday 22 May, with a review taking place on 18 May.

KINDERGARTEN – YEAR 6 STUDENTS

- As advised at the end of Term 1, from the start of Term Two parents and caregivers **may choose to keep their children at home** to engage in flexible, remote learning, either online or via work packs. As has been the case since our school transitioned to flexible and remote learning in Term One, this approach particularly allows parents and caregivers who are engaged in essential services or are required to maintain employment to send their children to school if they are unable to care for them at home.
- Should parents and caregivers choose to send their children to school, these students will engage in the same remote learning being provided to students learning from home. Schools will provide appropriate supervision but not face-to-face teaching for students attending school in person.

STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOL

- Parents and caregivers need to advise the school if your child will be attending school from Wednesday, 29 April. This is necessary to ensure appropriate plans are in place to comply with the Department of Health's physical distancing advice. It also ensures the school is able to make appropriate arrangements for student supervision while ensuring remote teaching and learning continues.

- Medically compromised students are asked to remain at home until they receive a medical clearance to attend school. Online learning and/or work packs will be provided to these students.
- Parents and caregivers are not permitted on school property and must drop off or pick up their children from the Kiss and Drive on Kintore Street, at which time they must not exit their vehicle. If parents and caregivers are walking their children to and from school, they should also drop off or pick up their children from Kiss and Drive. A staff member will be on duty at the gate to escort children to the undercover area.
- The school canteen will continue to operate, however, students need to give their lunch orders and money to the canteen. You may choose to write your order on an envelope and seal the money inside it before putting it in your child/ren's school bag.
- Assemblies, excursions, interschool activities and school-based co-curricular activities will not recommence until advice is received from the Department of Health that it is safe to do so.
- The school will continue to ensure that environmental cleaning practices are in place, with enhanced routines where necessary.
- Students will be required to continue with the hygiene practices put in place in Term One and will need to follow the physical distancing measures that are needed to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

I wish to reiterate that during this period, our staff will continue to ensure we best support our students' learning from home, as well as those students who may be at school. We acknowledge that it will be important to maintain regular contact between the school and parents and caregivers.

At this difficult time, I wish to reassure every parent and caregiver that the ongoing enrolment of every child in our school is guaranteed. I encourage parents seeking financial support arrangements to discuss one of the following options, which are immediately available to all families with children in Catholic schools:

- The Centrelink Health Care Card Discount Scheme provides an automatic fee concession to the holders of eligible means-tested family concession cards. **This discount applies to all year levels from Kindergarten to Year 12.** Additional financial considerations are also available depending on each family's circumstance.
- For parents and caregivers who do not qualify for the Health Care Card discount, but who are experiencing financial difficulties, arrangements can be made to provide immediate support to assist you with tuition costs.

My staff and I thank you for your on-going support. We will keep you updated with any new information as it becomes available.

God bless,



PRINCIPAL