



NEWSLETTER

St Michael's Catholic Primary School
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Newsletter: Vol 2

Week 3

Date: 15 April 2020

Vision Statement

St Michael's Catholic Primary School is a welcoming community, embracing the Gospel values of faith, hope and love. We provide a Catholic education that nurtures the development of all children to their full potential. Through Christian witness, we offer a safe and supportive learning environment for the families in our school community.

We would like to acknowledge the Aboriginal people and their ancestors who are the Traditional Owners of this land. May we and all Australian's, Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal, continue to be committed to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.



Dear Parents, Staff and Students

We have included in our newsletter information regarding "where we are up to" with returning to normal operation. There are three documents that are attached to the Newsletter.

Letter to Parents

Return to School Quick Reference Guide

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update (Dr Andy Robertson-Chief Medical Officer)

We have been delighted with how quickly our students have returned to a more normal routine. Our hard working teachers have eased back into a face to face teaching mode as our classes have reached full numbers. We have been very mindful of a few students who have been continuing with remote learning this week and have endeavored to provide them with support.

In the Reference guide to parents provided by the Catholic Education WA (CEWA) we hope questions parents may have will be answered. Although the guide is useful there are some areas that do not apply to our small school.

We will inform parents regarding our canteen as soon as we have determined how and when it will operated this term.

Parents requiring uniforms may still contact Sarah Ferguson on 0450 901 090 if they need new uniforms.

We greatly appreciate Sarah's generosity in providing such a flexible service to our parents.

Parents may still drop and pick up their children from the front door. Staff will supervise students as they arrive and leave. We thank our students and parents for their diligence in ensuring the safety of all our students.

We hope all our families remain safe and well over the coming weeks and remind them that we are available for any advice or support during these difficult times.

God Bless

Phillip Rossiter

Over the Phone Appointments

If parents wish to talk to a teacher this can be done through arranging a telephone appointment. This can be done by either ringing the office or through their child's diary. Please note, first thing in the morning is a difficult time for teachers to speak with parents as they are preparing lessons and dealing with students. Thank you.

Boxes required

K/PP classroom urgently need cereal, toothpaste, or any boxes the children can use to do their classroom activities. No big boxes please. Thank you

Library Bags

A reminder to all Parents that children must have their library bags when borrowing books. Thank you

Lunches / Drink bottles

Students are reminded to bring their drink bottles to school and don't forget spoons etc. if you are supplying a meal/ yogurt. Thank you.

Pick up times K/PP

Next week pick up times for Kindy/PP students is 2.50pm.



Jaymie, Cooper, Evi, Logan and Levi.

A hard copy of the newsletter is being sent home today.

Dear parents and caregivers

As restrictions have continued to be lifted and 95% / 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.

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

Phillip Rossiter
Principal

Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) Update

Dear Parents and Students

Updated Advice from the Chief Health Officer

Schools have now been open for students since the commencement of term 2 and I am very encouraged by the way the school community, parents and students are caring for their health and attending school in a responsible way. This is building community confidence in the safety of our schools with the overall attendance rate reaching over 82%.

WA recently recorded 14 days with only 2 reported cases, both of whom were rapidly identified and are in isolation. With over 56,000 negative tests and only 7 active cases, there is no evidence of community transmission.

The WA State Government has recently announced further decisions about the easing of restrictions in our state as part of a phased approach in the management of the pandemic. These decisions have been based on public health advice and will continue to be carefully monitored in the weeks ahead.

Public health measures already in place to protect the community will remain a focus during this time, including broad testing, comprehensive contact tracing when a case is identified, isolation and quarantine measures where required, and education about social distancing and hand hygiene. Plans remain in place to prevent the spread of any illness.

I continue to recommend that schools should remain open to all students and families should be encouraged to return their children to the classroom. If your child is more vulnerable due to health problems or you have a vulnerable adult living in your home, then I would recommend seeking advice from your specialist medical practitioner as to whether returning to school remains the best option for you.

We need to remain diligent during this time and I encourage you to please make sure you keep your child home if they are unwell and, if you or child have fever, cough or cold symptoms, get tested for COVID-19. We should all continue to follow the social distancing guidelines when interacting with other parents, teachers and school staff.

Thankyou again for your leadership and support during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

DR ANDY ROBERTSON
Chief Health Officer

May 2020



Government of Western Australia
Department of the Premier and Cabinet



Hon. Mark McGowan MLA
Premier



Hon. Sue Ellery MLC
Minister for Education and Training

MEDIA STATEMENT

Thursday, 14 May 2020

All WA students to return to school from next week

School students required back at school from Monday, May 18, based on health advice
Students who are medically vulnerable can continue to learn at home
ATAR written exams to go ahead as scheduled from November 2
Vulnerable staff members should continue to seek medical advice
Students at residential facilities can return home on weekends subject to the discretion of the Principal or residential manager

All Western Australian school students will be required to return to school from Monday, May 18, following a review of the current arrangements and health advice.

Premier Mark McGowan and Education and Training Minister Sue Ellery today announced the return to normal school operations after consultation with stakeholders and health experts.

There are exceptions for students who are medically vulnerable or those who have a family member with chronic health issues. These students will be assessed and can continue to learn from home and will be supported by their schools and the Department of Education.

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advises of a relatively low risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools. Additional measures, such as the \$43 million investment in extra cleaning at public schools, will continue to reduce the risk further. Ahead of Term 2, the WA Chief Health Officer provided advice that schools were safe for face-to-face learning.

Should they remain away without good reason, they will no longer be provided with learning packages and their absence will be marked as unauthorised.

Up to 20 additional teachers will be employed to support students who have been medically referred to learn from home and up to 36 additional staff will be employed to help students who need additional support to re-engage with their school.

Teachers and school staff who are aged over 70 and those aged over 65 with a health condition, should seek medical advice before returning to work.

Drop off and pick up arrangements that restrict parents and carers, and non-essential visitors, from entering school grounds remain in place. These arrangements will be reviewed as part of Phase 3 of the McGowan Government's WA roadmap.

Whole school assemblies, camps and interschool activities will still not be permitted.

Students in residential facilities will be now permitted to return home at weekends at the discretion of the principal or residential manager. The health advice remains that visits home should be reduced.

For Year 12 students, the 2020 ATAR course written exams will go ahead as scheduled from November 2. Written examinations will take the same form as previous years, with a three-hour duration.

For Year 9 students who were unable to sit the NAPLAN this year due to COVID-19, more flexibility will be introduced into the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA).

This will give Year 9 students the opportunity to demonstrate the literacy and numeracy standards required to achieve the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

Teachers will be required to report to parents with information about students' learning progress to date in semester one but they will not be required to assign an A-E grade. Teachers will continue to provide informal feedback to parents and carers throughout the semester as required.

These changes recognise the impact of COVID-19 on teaching in Western Australia, and provides parents and carers with reliable information regarding student progress.

Strict environmental cleaning throughout the school day, including high-touch surfaces and playground equipment, will continue as will reinforced hygiene measures.

Comments attributed to Premier Mark McGowan:

“Once again Western Australia is leading the way when it comes to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, and this is great news for WA students and the general WA community.

“This is an important step forward as we look to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and I’m pleased that all WA students will return to the best place to continue their school journey - the classroom.

“Our cautious, staged approach to re-opening WA schools allowed us to carefully transition students back into the classroom, while managing the risk.

“I acknowledge it has been a challenging time for many, and I thank all Western Australian students, parents and teachers for their efforts to get us to this point.

“We are now in a position where Western Australian parents can feel confident that schools are a safe place for their children, with a rigorous cleaning regime and other additional protections in place.

“As has always been the case, this decision was based on the health advice that recognises there is a relatively low risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools. We will continue to monitor the situation in coming weeks.”

Comments attributed to Education and Training Minister Sue Ellery:

“From May 18, schools will return to normal operations and any student without a valid health reason who does not return will no longer be provided with learning packages and their absence will be marked as unauthorised.

“These students will be supported to reconnect with their schools.

“This decision has been made following extensive consultation with health experts and stakeholders.

“The majority of stakeholders we’ve spoken with have said they wanted a return to compulsory school attendance for all students and strict hygiene measures to be maintained.

“Attendance continues to increase in WA schools, with an 85.2 per cent average recorded on Wednesday this week which shows parent confidence in the health advice and the public school system.

“Research tells us there is a direct relationship between attendance and student achievement - achievement declines as absence increases - particularly impacting students from disadvantaged communities the most. This is why we want every student back at school, learning in class with their teachers.”

Media contacts:

Premier’s office: Jamie Macdonald 0457 535 224 or 6552 5200

Education and Training Minister’s office: Kaye Hopkins 0428 925 699 or 6552 5700