

St Columba's School Bayswater

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Grow in Faith Seek Wisdom Live in Peace

26 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Hope you are all going well? Thanks for continuing to set the standards in understanding and care for all those in our school. I was just chatting with a couple of parents this afternoon, and their sense of calm is something I feel everyone has created throughout our school. Thank you to our staff, our parents and our kids.

The following information has been released for distribution to our school community.

SCHOOL PROVISION

In line with Premier Mark McGowan's latest announcement regarding new learning arrangements in Western Australian schools I would like to outline changes below:

- Parents with children in all Catholic schools in Western Australia should keep their children at home from the close of school tomorrow (Friday 27 March).
- Schools will remain open to ensure that remote learning takes place, as well as to supervise children of parents currently working in health or essential services. Parents who are currently involved in health or essential services who require their child to attend school to be supervised in their learning, will need to email the school on admin@stcolsbays.wa.edu.au by 9.00 am tomorrow morning, Friday 27 March. Please make this a priority, as it will allow us to start our planning of delivery over the coming days.
- **If your child is not attending school from Monday 30 March, you do not need to email the school at this time.**
- **The last day of school for Term 1 will now be Friday 3 April.**
- In the week of Monday 6 April to Thursday 9 April, staff will be engaged in further processes to prepare for the continuation of home learning and what that will look like for Term Two. This will be a time of preparing and testing our Seesaw Class App for the educational delivery. The Seesaw Class App will be the vehicle for remote learning, if schools are to continue to operate as proposed for next week. *No educational delivery takes place during this week of teacher preparation as these are professional development days.*
- Our school will be able to supervise, but not teach, children of families that **must work** [health or essential services] on the 6, 7, 8 and 9 April.
- Our OSHC will continue to operate for parents who work in essential services whose children are attending school that week. A decision on the OSHC operating during the school holiday break is pending.

Monday 30 March to Friday 3 April:

- The delivery of student learning will continue as it has these past two weeks. If students are learning from home, classroom teachers will be in contact with learning activities at their year level. This will look different across the years, and will be delivered through Seesaw, email or home packs.
- Our teachers are committed to the on-going learning of your children. We will be ensuring next week is a time of transition, where our student, parent and staff wellbeing is a priority.

These decisions have been made to prioritise the health and wellbeing of the Western Australian community and are based on the best national medical advice. In keeping with Government messaging, *'Please stay at home unless you have to go out.'*

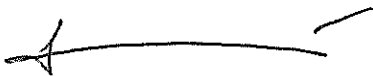
This is a difficult time for all in Western Australia and it is normal that your children may be feeling anxious or worried. Catholic Education Western Australia remains focused on the care and wellbeing of all students, staff and families and as a Catholic community, I encourage you to pray for the health of all in our communities, especially those who are more vulnerable.

I again wish to thank everyone for their support for our staff, our parents and our kids. It is during times such as these that our people come together to makes the lives of others better. This is in line with our value of Justice, and with our word for the year, Ubuntu. This will be a time that I will remember as a time of change and growth both as a person, yes, as a Principal, but as a person, well, hard to explain. This is only made possible because of how you are, my St Col's family, with each other, and how my own family and friends have allowed for me to live our motto, 'Grow in Faith, Seek Wisdom and Live in Peace.' It could be no truer than now, and no more needed than now.

As always, I am available to answer any questions you may have and will work with you to ensure we continue to provide for the education of your child/ren during this challenging time. I will communicate on a regular basis through the News tab in the Parent Information section on our school website to keep you up-to-date with any on-going developments that will impact on our operations.

If at any time over the coming weeks you need our support, I am an email away. I mean this sincerely as I know for many of our families, these uncertain times will be challenging. Please do not ever worry about emailing me. I feel like this is why I am meant to be here at St Col's. Keep an eye out for a video or seven over the coming weeks. Now that I have a taste for it, might as well go with it. No need to watch them as any information will also be in print on the website.

Blessings to you all and may God bring you moments of peace over the weeks ahead.



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