



MATTHEW GIBNEY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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COVID 19 - UPDATE

Dear Parents and Caregivers

In line with the latest advice from Commonwealth and WA Government and under direction of Catholic Education WA, Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School is planning to remain open at least until the end of term to provide the best possible education to your children. In line with Prime Minister's and the WA Minister for Education's advice, parents may choose to keep their children at home during this unprecedented time. The school will continue to support parents in the decisions that they make in the best interests of their children. The school is particularly supportive of parents who are providing much needed services during these challenging times. We will continue to keep the school environment as healthy as possible.

In considering the potential risks associated with COVID-19, our school has been working with Catholic Education Western Australia in conjunction with the WA Department of Health and the Department of Education throughout the evolution of COVID-19 to ensure we have the best possible preparedness and response strategies in place.

We have a number of procedures already in place that we will continue to closely monitor for the health and safety of all our community. Please note the following important points that will come into effect immediately:

1. Parents who choose to keep their children at home must inform the school with a written absentee note. The note will need to include the dates that the students will be away.
2. In order to support the health and well being of staff I request that parents of students from Year One to Six drop their children at the school gate in the mornings and collect them from the gate or the drive through each afternoon. Please avoid congregating in the school buildings.
3. Kindy and Pre-Primary students can continue to be dropped off and collected for the junior playground. However, parents are requested to keep a suitable distance between themselves and avoid close contact with the teachers.
4. In order to support the health and well being of staff and students all visits from non-essential adults will cease. Parent help, volunteers and visiting therapists and support staff will no longer be able to visit during school hours, until further notice.
5. Students must bring their drink bottles to school every day. Drinking directly from the bubblers is strongly discouraged.

Home Learning Packs

The teaching staff have worked tirelessly over the past few weeks to cater for the learning needs of all students, including those students attending school and those working from home. Home learning packs for Kindy students have been sent home on Monday. Home learning packs for students, from Pre-Primary to Year Six will be available from the undercover area on Wednesday afternoon from 3.10-3.30pm for those families who are keeping their children home from school. Teachers will engage with students further using SEESAW and/or TEAMS. The work packs are to cater for home learning for the duration of Term One. Students who are remaining at school, will be educated, as they usually would.

School Fees

In acknowledging the far-reaching impact of COVID-19 for families in our school community, I also assure parents that we remain determined that no family seeking a Catholic education for their child be denied the opportunity due to financial difficulty. Catholic Education Western Australia is addressing potential concerns relating to fees and affordability that may arise as a result of COVID-19.

Everyone in the community has a part to play in helping control the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to follow the latest advice of the Department of Health. I will keep you informed about any changes for our school as updates become available. All updates will continue to be available, on the school website, for your reference.

Thank you for your support at this time, and as a Catholic community I encourage all of you to pray for those coordinating our response in Australia, and for all of those in Australia and abroad affected by COVID-19.

As always, I ask that you contact me directly if you have any concern that may relate to your child. Most importantly, I remind all parents to **KEEP THE CHILDREN HOME FROM SCHOOL IF THEY ARE UNWELL.**

Yours sincerely

Therese Hussey
Principal