



8/4/2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

## TERM TWO ARRANGEMENTS

As school staff this week finalise teaching and learning plans for Term Two – albeit under very unusual circumstances – we have been pleased to receive advice from Catholic Education Western Australia that Term Two will commence as scheduled for schools in Western Australia.

For all Catholic schools, Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School included, learning will continue to be delivered remotely and all parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep their children home. As has been the case since we transitioned to remote learning in Term One, parents and caregivers who are engaged in essential services or are required to maintain employment may choose to send their children to school if they are unable to care for them at home.

Our staff will continue to work through Term Two to ensure we can best support our students' learning from home, as well as those students who may be at school. Some staff may be working from home, or from the school, as appropriate.

### Student Attendance at School in Term Two

In order to organise staff and classes in preparation for Term Two parents are requested to inform the school, as soon as possible via an email or telephone call, if their child/children are returning to school to have face to face classes in Term Two. We need to know the days they will be attending. **Once again, parents are reminded that they are to keep their children at home unless there is no other alternative for care.** Teachers will teach all students the remote learning programs that they have prepared, whether they are learning at school or learning at home.

### Remote Learning Plans

As parents, you are playing an important hands-on role, assisting your children in engaging in learning at this time, as well as supporting them through any anxiety or worry they may be feeling. I would like to stress that parents are by no means expected to take the place of teachers, and we will be doing our very best to support you and your child, delivering the curriculum and providing pastoral care in the most engaging way possible remotely.

As we continue to partner to support your child's ongoing learning, we acknowledge that it will be important to maintain regular contact between the school and parents and caregivers. Details about class communication is outlined in the accompanying Remote Learning Plan and the Zoom Timetable.

These plans have been well considered, and while we are initially planning for remote delivery of learning for the first four weeks of Term Two, we are also considering the potential for this to be extended as required.

### Expectations for Home Learning

Teachers have planned for two to three hours of essential learning each day. The key learning that students must engage in each day is English and Mathematics. The English work required may

include spelling, writing and reading comprehension. Reading must be completed daily. Additional work, including the Integrated Unit, Backyard Science, PE and Health are not compulsory, however we encourage students to complete some of these activities in the afternoon.

### Pastoral Care and School Fees Support

We remain committed to the care and wellbeing of our school and broader community, especially those most vulnerable who must remain our first priority. One aspect of this is considering the social and financial impact of this situation on many families.

As communicated last week, I wish to reassure every parent and caregiver that the ongoing enrolment of every child in our school is guaranteed, regardless of a parent's financial circumstances.

If parents or caregivers have concerns in this regard, I encourage you to contact me directly to confidentially discuss financial support arrangements. The following options 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 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.

### Attendance Register Requirements

As Term Two commences on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April it is expected that all students, from Kindy to Year Six, engage in the learning. **As such, the attendance register will be kept on a daily basis as it would if we were gathered at school.** The best way to gauge student attendance is for the teachers to check each day which students have logged into Seesaw to access the learning. Teachers will check this by 12.00pm daily. Families who are using email to access the work are to email the teacher each day to let them know that their child is completing learning tasks. Teachers will contact parents directly if they have not logged in by 12.00pm. Parents are requested to send in an absentee note to the class teacher if their child is sick or absent for any reason. During this remote learning phase **"absent"** means that the child is not completing learning tasks during the day.

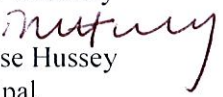
### Collection of Term Two Home Learning Packs

Parents are reminded that the learning packs for students from Kindy to Year Six will be available for collection from the undercover area at 9.00am on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April. Please inform the school if you are unable to collect, for any reason, and we will organise alternative arrangements.

Our school staff are grateful for the support and appreciation that so many parents and caregivers have shared as we journey together through this challenging time.

I will keep you updated with any new information as it becomes available.

Yours sincerely

  
Therese Hussey  
Principal