

5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Term One School Commencement Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Dear Parents

I am writing to advise that our school will open for the start of Term One on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. This is in response to Premier Mark McGowan's announcement last night that the hard lockdown in the Perth, Peel and South West regions will be lifted at 6.00pm today, Friday 5 February. However, some restrictions will continue to apply until at least 12:01 am 14 February.

We are delighted and excited that Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School will be welcoming our students back to school on Monday 8 February.

**The welcome back applies to all our students, from Pre-Kindy to Year Six. Kindy students will continue with the staggered start that has been put in place for the first week back. Pre-Kindy students will commence on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February.**

The most important aspect of the continuing restrictions will be a requirement for all staff members to wear a mask. There is no requirement for students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6 to wear a mask, however they may choose to if they wish.

The following information about school drop-off on Monday and for every day this week is provided for your information. Please read this information carefully:

- **Pre-Kindy** – There will be no change for the drop off and collection of Pre-Kindy students on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Numbers of students for the week are small so parents may come into the classroom, wearing their masks, to assist the children to settle in. **We request that only primary caregivers bring the Pre-Kindy children to school in the first week. This is usually Mum and Dad. This is not the week for extended family members to come along.**
- **Kindy** – There will be no change for the drop off and collection of Kindy students this week. There is a staggered start for the week so parents may come into the classroom, wearing their masks, to assist the children to settle in. **We request that only primary caregivers bring the Kindy children to school in the first week. This is usually Mum and Dad. This is not the week for extended family members to come along.**
- **Pre-Primary** – Pre-Primary parents are to wait outside the door, wearing their masks, as the Pre-Primary staff direct small numbers of parents, at any one time, into the room to settle their children. This will be done with a staggered approach. Once the children are settled parents are encouraged to move on quickly so the next group of parents can be invited into the room with their children. **We request that only primary caregivers bring the Pre-Primary children to school in the first week. This is usually Mum and Dad. This is not the week for extended family members to come along.**
- **Year 1** – Year 1 parents are to wait outside the Year 1 classroom door, wearing their masks, as the Year 1 staff direct small numbers of parents, at any one time, into the room to settle their children. This will be done with a staggered approach. Once the children are settled parents are encouraged to move on quickly so the next group of parents can be invited into the room with their children. **We request that only primary caregivers bring the Year 1 children to school in the first week. This is usually Mum and Dad. This is not the week for extended family members to come along.**
- **Year 2** –Year 2 parents are to wait outside the side door, between the Year 1 and 2 classrooms. The Year 2 students will enter the classroom from this entrance and parents are requested to farewell their children from the door. A staff member will assist the Year 2

students to find their pigeon holes and organise their belongings for the start of the day whilst Mrs Nickels greets and welcomes the children at the door.

- **Year 3-6** – Parents of students from Year 3-6 are requested to farewell their children from outside the main teaching block. Parents who can farewell their children from the gate are also encouraged to do so.
- **New Families** – Parents of new students in Years 2-6 are welcome to come into the classroom, wearing your mask, to assist their children to settle in and to meet their new teacher.

Additional information for next week:

- The Uniform Shop will continue to be open on Monday morning for parents to collect orders. The shop will be open at 8.15am. Parents are to wait outside the shop and Mrs Denys will invite families, one at a time, into the shop to collect orders. The Kindy/Pre-Primary gate will be open so parents have room to wait and adequately distance from each other using the 1.5 metre guide.
- The Administration Office will be open for parents. However, in order to ensure we maintain social distancing rules only one family at a time will be able to come into the office.
- The Opening Liturgy and Commissioning of Year 6 student leaders will go ahead on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2.15pm**. In order to comply with restrictions Year 6 parents only are invited to attend the Liturgy. Year 6 parents attending must sign in using the Safer WA App we have available or using the manual sign in sheet.
- Parents are reminded that mask wearing and social distancing applies at school at all times next week.
- The Welcoming Picnic has been postponed to **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March** in order to give P&F parents time to organise the picnic safely for us all to enjoy.
- Bushfire Appeal – the students will collect donations for the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund during Week 3.

I appreciate that parents and students will have many questions about the new arrangements and assure you that I will continue to provide information about the requirements as soon it becomes available. If your child is particularly anxious about starting school, please contact me via an email and I will happily discuss strategies to assist you and your child on the first day. Our first priority next week is to ensure all our students have an enjoyable experience for their first week back at school. I can be contacted at: [therese.hussey@cewa.edu.au](mailto:therese.hussey@cewa.edu.au)

Information about the Government's announcement is available on the [wa.gov.au](http://wa.gov.au) site. The latest health information is available through [WA Health Department](#).

Our school staff will continue to work closely with you to ensure that all children can be welcomed back to school on Monday, 8 February in a safe manner. Your child's health and well-being remains our first priority.

Therese Hussey  
Principal  
Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School