

## ST ANTHONY'S SCHOOL, WANNEROO

### Coronavirus COVID-19 Update as at April 21, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are safe and well. Thank you for your ongoing support in these challenging times.

As you may be aware, Premier Mark McGowan announced Term Two arrangements for **public schools** in Western Australia on Friday 17 April. The following sets out the St Anthony's School arrangements for Term Two, which reflects the guiding principles of Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA):

1. The health and safety of our students and staff remain our first priority.
2. All students will continue to be provided with a quality Catholic education.
3. Decisions regarding school education will continue to be informed by national and state-based health and education advice and align with the National Principles for School Education.

Term Two will commence on Wednesday 29 April. Previously the start date was going to be the 28 April, however the Premier has announced that this will be a staff professional development day so we can use this time to prepare the school environment. Some classes will have work scheduled on the online platform for that day which you may choose to do at home. Please note that teachers will not be available to assist on the Tuesday until the term officially begins the following day. The remote learning package will be used for students learning at school and at home. This will continue until Friday 22 May, with a review taking place on 18 May.

- From the start of Term Two, parents and carers **may choose to send their children to school** to engage in flexible, remote learning, either online and/or via work packs. As has been the case since our school transitioned to flexible and remote learning in Term One, this approach particularly allows parents and caregivers who are engaged in essential services or are required to maintain employment to send their children to school if they are unable to care for them at home.
- Should parents and caregivers choose to send their children to school, these students will engage in the same mode of learning being provided to students learning from home. Schools will provide appropriate supervision but not face-to-face teaching for students attending school in person. Please ensure that if your child does attend school, they bring their relevant work packs, textbooks, iPads and stationery. These will need to be brought home at the end of each day so that all surfaces at school can be cleaned.

#### STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOL

- Parents and carers need to advise the school if their child will be attending school from Wednesday 29 April via the survey that will be sent to you via text message. **Please respond to this survey by 3pm, Thursday 23 April.** This is necessary to ensure appropriate plans are in place to comply with the Department of Health's physical distancing advice. It also ensures the school is able to make appropriate arrangements for student supervision while ensuring teaching and learning continues. If you change your mind after this time, the school will need two working days' notice of your intention to send your child so that appropriate plans can be made.

- Medically compromised students are asked to remain at home until they receive a medical clearance to attend school. Online learning and/or work packs can be continued for these students.
- **Parents and caregivers are not permitted on school property other than to drop off or pick up their children, at which time they must not exit their vehicle.** If parents and caregivers are walking their children to and from school, they should drop them off at the entrance gates. Please note that for students from Year 1 to 6, the gate near the library needs to be used. Kindy and Pre Primary students will use the Kindy gate near the K/PP Carpark. For pick up at the end of the day parents are also to wait in their cars and circulate through the pickup areas. Please do not leave children at the gate prior to 8.25am or 9.00am for Kindy. Staggered pick up times may need to be implemented depending on the number of students on site.
- Assemblies, excursions, interschool activities and school-based co-curricular activities will not recommence until advice is received from the Department of Health that it is safe to do so.
- The canteen will be open for students who need to order their recess or lunch. This will need to be done online so that money is not handled. There will not be any over the counter sales.
- Cleaning - From the 19<sup>th</sup> March, we have had additional contract cleaning including daily disinfecting of hard surfaces and high contact points. This will continue.
- Students will be required to continue with the hygiene practices put in place in Term One. This includes utilising hand sanitiser when entering and exiting the classrooms.
- Please keep children at home if they are unwell. If children present at school feeling unwell or with any symptoms, you will be contacted to come and collect them.
- Students learning from home will need to register their attendance by 8.35am on the learning from home website or the Google classroom as applicable to them or they will be marked as absent.
- Playgrounds – these will remain closed in line with public playground regulations. A small amount of equipment will be available for students to use which will be disinfected at the end of each break.
- Water fountains will remain closed, please ensure your child brings two water bottles.
- Students are required to wear their school uniform if they are attending, however considering the uniform shop is unlikely to be staffed, winter, summer or sport uniform can be worn.
- Social distancing practises at school will be strongly encouraged but cannot be guaranteed due to children's nature to bond together. Please note that the greater the number of children attending, the more difficult it will be to encourage this.
- Please note that depending on the number of students who attend, students may not be in their regular classroom or with their regular teacher.

I wish to reiterate that during this period, our staff will continue to ensure we best support our students' learning from home, as well as those students who may be at school. We acknowledge that it will be important to maintain regular contact between the school and parents and caregivers. Please contact the school office or Ann Peart, our Social Worker, should you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing.

At this difficult time, I wish to reassure every parent and caregiver that the ongoing enrolment of every child in our school is guaranteed. I encourage parents seeking financial support arrangements to discuss one of the following options, which 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 and caregivers 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.

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

Take care, stay safe and God bless

Mark Marando  
PRINCIPAL