



ST. BERNARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

24th March, 2020

COVID 19 UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

In line with the latest advice from Commonwealth and WA governments, St Bernard's 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, waiving the normal requirement for students to attend school in person.

State and territory Premiers and Chief Ministers have committed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee advice that says that it is **safe to keep schools open**. However, as you know, this is a highly volatile and fast-changing situation. I will keep you up to date with the latest situation as necessary.

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 are working hard to ensure we are able to support students to engage in remote learning should our school be required to close. Currently, we are not providing work for those students who are not attending school because parents have chosen not to send them. **However, we expect to be able to start to offer remote learning packages as of next week.** Further details on this will be provided at that time, but at this stage I envisage these packages will include the following:

- student login access to Raz Kids and Reading Eggs website for teacher monitored, levelled reading, comprehension and writing activities
- student login access (Years 3-6) to Writing Legends website for teacher monitored, curriculum-linked writing activities
- student login access to Mathletics for teacher monitored Mathematics activities
- PLD spelling, oral language and writing activities, providing levelled instruction based on our current data for all students
- teacher provided program of learning in Religious Education
- Deep learning/inquiry learning activities in all other subject areas: HASS, Japanese, Art, Science, Technologies and Physical Education

I ask for your patience as we continue to work to put together these remote learning packages, at the same time as teachers are required to provide fact-to-face learning for those students attending school. I would like to sincerely thank all our staff for their continuing hard work on behalf of our students and families at this most stressful of times.

Please be assured that while the school remains open, hygiene measures and cleaning regimes will continue to be completed to the highest possible standards to mitigate risks associated with the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I ask that you also have conversations with your child about the importance of these measures. If your child is feeling unwell in any way, please keep them at home.

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Water fountains have been turned off at school and it is important to send your child to school with a full water bottle each day. Re-fills can be done in each classroom with teacher support.

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.

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, please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any concerns or queries.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sharon Marino
Principal