



ST. BERNARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

8 April 8, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this very unusual Term One draws to a close for school staff this week I am pleased to advise that Catholic Education Western Australia has provided us with information regarding Term Two operations for Catholic schools in Western Australia.

For St Bernard's and all Catholic schools, learning will continue to be delivered remotely in Term Two and, in line with advice from the government, 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 access care for them at home.

Our teachers and staff have been working extremely hard to support our students' learning from home, as well as those students who may be at school, and we will continue to do so in Term Two.

As parents, I would like to acknowledge the incredibly important hands-on role you are playing in assisting your children to engage with their 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. Our staff met on Monday and one of the items for discussion was the feedback gathered from parents at the end of last week and how we can use this to guide our planning for delivery of remote learning and support for students in Term Two.

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. Please expect our teachers and other staff to be in regular contact with you and remember that you are always welcome to ask questions or seek clarification about your child's learning. Teachers can reasonably be expected to respond during normal working hours and I ask that you are mindful of this as you wait for a response.

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. I will keep you updated as this information comes to hand.

In readiness for the start of Term Two, I ask parents who are planning to send their children to school due to employment and work commitments, and who are unable to access care for their children during the day, to please email me directly: Sharon.marino@cewa.edu.au. You simply need state that your child/children will be attending in Term 2 and providing details of your employment eg: *My husband and I both work fulltime in the manufacturing and retail food industries and have no other options for care of our children at home.*

Please send these emails no later than **Wednesday 22 April**.

11 Katanning Road, Kojonup WA 6395
Telephone: (08) 9831 3500
Email: admin@stbernards.wa.edu.au
Web: stbernards.wa.edu.au/



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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. 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.

I am extremely grateful for the support and appreciation that so many parents and caregivers have shown to our school staff as we journey together through this challenging time.

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

For now, enjoy the holiday time with your family, stay safe, and I wish you a blessed Easter.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sharon Marino
Principal