



ST. BERNARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

21 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust this letter finds you and your families healthy and happy, and enjoying these school holidays despite the difficult circumstances we are living through. I am writing to you to provide updated information from Catholic Education WA (CEWA) regarding the situation for Catholic schools in Term Two.

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 St Bernard's arrangements for Term Two, which reflects the guiding principles of Catholic Education Western Australia:

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.

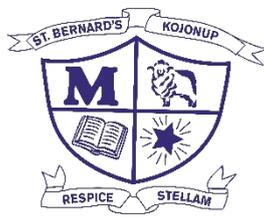
When Term Two begins for students on Wednesday 29 April, St Bernard's will provide **one mode of learning** until Friday 22 May, with a review by CEWA on 18 May. The mode of learning for all students will be online remote delivery, supported by work packages and resources, if and as needed. Attendance of students will be recorded, both remotely and in person, and all students are expected to engage in the remote learning provided, with the support of their teachers and parents. Please note there has been no advice provided on Semester One reporting at this stage.

KINDERGARTEN – YEAR 6 STUDENTS

- From the start of Term Two, parents and caregivers **may choose to keep their children at home** to engage in remote learning. As has been the case since our school transitioned to 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 carers 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.

STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOL

- Parents and carers need to advise by Friday 24 April if your child/ren will be attending school. 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. Please email sharon.marino@cewa.edu.au to advise if your child/ren will be attending, letting me know which days. If you have already advised me that your child/ren will be attending in Term Two you do not need to do so again unless the days you are requesting have changed.



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- Medically compromised students are asked to remain at home until they receive a medical clearance to attend school. Online learning and/or work packs will be provided to these students.
- Parents and carers are not permitted on school grounds other than to drop off or pick up their children, at which time they must not exit their vehicle. Please drive slowly through the car park, stopping at the main front entrance where your child/ren will be collected by staff at the start of the day or brought to your vehicle at the end of the day. All gates except the main school gate will be locked. Students riding or walking to school must meet a staff member at the main front gate. Drop off times are from 8.30-8.50am and pick up times from 2.55 to 3.10pm. If you are dropping off or picking up your children outside of these times, please phone the school ahead to arrange a staff member to meet you in the school car park. Bus arrangements should remain the same, but please contact the school bus provider to confirm.
- Assemblies, excursions, interschool activities and other events will not recommence until advice is received from the Department of Health that it is safe to do so.
- Monday canteen lunches remain cancelled at this stage
- The school will continue to ensure required environmental cleaning practices are in place, with enhanced routines where necessary.
- Students attending school will be required to maintain strict hygiene practices and will need to follow physical distancing measures to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

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, through our remote learning packages. Regular contact will be maintained with parents and carers.

At this difficult time, I wish to reassure every parent and carer 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 carers 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. Please contact me directly.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the incredible work our staff have done to ensure our remote learning packages are of the highest standard. I am extremely grateful to them for their hard work in such difficult circumstances. I will keep you updated with any new information as it becomes available.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon Marino
PRINCIPAL

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