



No 11: 5 June 2020

“Be the Hands, Heart and Voice of Jesus”

School Theme 2020

Our Commitment to Child Safety:

“At St Paul the Apostle Catholic Primary School we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel.”

Dear Parents and families,

Well done Prep and Junior Levels for a smooth transition

As we conclude our second week back at SPA Doreen for our Prep and Junior classes and our staff, we have been amazed with how well our young learners have settled back into the rhythm of school life. Just as remarkable has been the smooth transition for our young preppies who have returned a little taller, more confident and talkative and eager to fully engage with their learning, grateful for a chance to reacquaint themselves with their teachers and classmates...even more remarkable considering that they had only experienced 27 days of prep before their school year was so suddenly interrupted.

While we understand that some families initially felt somewhat anxious about the move back to school, the staggered starting and pick up times, the introduction of strict hygiene protocols and the reassurance from our staff and access to counselling services has ensured that we are providing a safe environment to enable our children to flourish.

Health and safety have remained our top priority. We continue to devote much time in carefully considering every aspect of our day to day school operations and practices to ensure that we are providing a safe learning environment for our children and staff.

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery Mrs Keefe (Junior MK)

The children from Junior NM on their return to school last week were delighted to be welcomed by the warm smile of their teacher Marg Keefe, once again wearing her familiar moon boot, only this time it was on the other foot. Margaret informed her class that she had injured her foot and would undergo surgery and then recuperating until the end of term, much to their joint disappointment. To ensure the continuity of their learning program, **Mrs Jo Hawke**, an experienced classroom teacher who is very familiar with our children and our learning culture, was appointed to replace Marg and will work closely with the dynamic Junior Level team over the remaining weeks. We wish Marg a speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming her back at the start of Term Three.

Years Three - Six Return this Tuesday 9 June. Welcome Back.

This Tuesday marks a significant milestone for our children from our Middle and Senior Year Levels when they conclude their remote schooling from home after the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday this weekend. (No School Monday).

All Children are Expected to Attend School When Permitted

All children who are able to go to school are expected to attend and will be recorded as Absent on the school roll if they remain at home. The Victorian Government and CECV have stated that teachers are expected to teach face to face in their classrooms each day and will not be providing remote schooling for parents who want to keep their children at home.

Children with compromised immunity (as certified by a medical practitioner) or those families with health issues will need to make separate arrangements with the school.

UPDATE: New Return to School Protocols for Tuesday Restrictions on Access to the School site

For anyone other than immediate school staff and students, they will need to restrain from entering the school site for before and after school drop-off and pick-up times unless there have been separate arrangements made with the school office.

If arrangements cannot be made through phone calls, emails and zoom, parents and visitors will be permitted onsite during school hours for appointments to visit the school office.

These parents and visitors will be screened and need to sign the register on entering the school site to ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of our school community. There will also need to be adjustments to the way we conduct parent meetings and interviews until further notice.

CHANGES: Staggered Starting and Finishing Times next week

Schools have been directed to manage drop-off and pick-up times to minimise the risk of congregation at school entry and exit points.

Therefore to minimise congestion with all of our children returning, there will be new adjustments for drop-off and pick-up, further enhancing our very successful and well supported staggered school starting and finishing times to date.

NEW STAGGERED DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP TIMES:

BEFORE SCHOOL

- **8:30am to 8:44am - Single SPA child family ONLY**
- **8:45am to 9.00am - Multiple SPA children families**

AFTER SCHOOL – From 3.00pm

- **3:00pm - Single SPA child in Years Prep, One & Two ONLY**
- **3:10pm - Single SPA child in Years Three – Six ONLY**
- **3:15pm - Multiple SPA children families**

NB: Of course there will be some families who due to other pressing commitments may not be able to adopt the staggered times which we can appreciate. However if the vast majority of our families can comply, this will ensure the continued health and safety of our community.

Parents to watch their children enter the school from a distance

It's understandable that Prep parents feel the need to wait at a safe distance near the gate for easy access to their young preppie.

However to lessen the impact of COVID19 and to adhere to social distancing, all other parents and guardians are requested **not** to walk their children to nor congregate at the school gate before and after school. Staff will be outside to help welcome the children and to direct them to their waiting parents across the road or in their cars after school.

Anxious Children Returning to School

Returning to school especially during COVID19 Remote Schooling from home can be an anxious time for our children, a little apprehensive in returning to school however parents have been most supportive by adhering to our drop-off and pick-up during this past fortnight.

If a Year Three to Six child is reluctant to enter into the school grounds on their return, parents are requested to **remain with their child outside the school grounds until 9.00am** when the staff will be able to assist you during this transition phase for our older children.

REMINDER: Children Not Required to Maintain Physical Distancing

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice to all schools. These will apply until further notice.

Using our mobile furniture and flexible open spaces, our classrooms and learning areas have now been re-arranged to limit close physical interaction between the children and also the staff occurring unnecessarily. **NB: If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school.** They must remain home and seek medical advice.

Staff and Visitors are Required to Maintain Physical Distancing

To ensure that we maintain social distancing restrictions, it remains important that physical distancing for adults and strict hygiene measures continue to be observed. Adjustments have been made to teaching and learning environments, including maintaining distance of 1.5 metres between adults, bringing in more furniture to separate the children. Any member of staff who is unwell must not attend school onsite and following our normal protocols will be sent home.

Procedures when Entering School through our School Gates

Daily Temperature Checks

Although this is not a mandated requirement for schools, all children, staff and visitors will have temperature taken on arrival in the Welcome Court before proceeding on to their learning areas.

Temperatures will only need to be recorded if they are elevated and require the child or staff to return home and not proceed onto the learning spaces. Temperatures will be taken again in the afternoon and hands will be washed before eating and after recess and lunch.

Washing of Hands

The children will continue to enter the buildings at designated Entry Points where they will be supervised washing their hands using anti-bacterial soap liquid before entering their classrooms.

Cleaning and Hygiene

All wet areas and learning areas have access to a thermometer, hand sanitiser, gloves, masks (if required) antibacterial liquid hand soap (which is now in all the soap dispensers), paper hand towels and a hospital grade disinfectant spray bottle.

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine. Following on from normal classroom protocol, wiping down (wearing disposable gloves) of equipment, tables, door handles with hospital grade disinfectant will be conducted throughout the day, especially before and after recess, lunch and end of the day. As an added precaution, cleaning staff have been employed from 12.00pm – 1.30pm daily to sanitise surfaces.

Drink Fountains Unavailable – Children Asked to Bring their Own Drink Bottle

Children are requested to bring their own drink bottles as our bubble taps will not be available.

Play Areas 1, 2 & 3 Now Open. No Adventure Playground and Slides.

From this Tuesday 9 June, to accommodate the whole school population, children will be able to access Areas 1, 2 & 3 however the children will not be permitted to access the Adventure playground nor slides until further notice to lessen the potential for the spread of COV19. We acknowledge that public playgrounds have opened but it would not be practical for us to sanitise the entire Adventure playground after each recess and lunchtime.

Although social distancing rules do not apply to children at school, children are encouraged to bring their own equipment, clearly labelled. Sports equipment including balls will also be provided by the school and will be sanitised daily.

Winter School Uniform Update

With the onset of the colder conditions, children are required to be dressed in their full Winter School Uniform.

NB: Shorts are not permitted to be worn during terms two and three with the only exception - during a specific Phys Ed or Sports lesson. In that case children must wear their shorts under their tracksuit pants during the day. Children arriving dressed in shorts will be supervised in the school office foyer during recess and lunchtimes. All uniform items should be clearly named. Unnamed items of lost property or those with names that are indistinguishable will be located in the in lost property bin outside the school office.

Catholic Secondary College and Pre-school Planned for our sites.

This morning, I attended another site meeting here at SPA to view an updated conceptual master plan which will incorporate an Early Learning Centre for a Three and Four year old kinder program and a campus of Marymede Catholic College on the adjoining site purchased specifically for our Catholic Education Precinct.

In a spirit of collaboration and partnership and sharing a joint vision for Catholic Education, our SPA children will be able to access the shared recreation spaces, oval and fields and the learning spaces and facilities that a secondary college can offer. This arrangement will be reciprocated by SPA Doreen for our future pre-schoolers. The educational and social possibilities are endless.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time and we look forward to welcoming our Middle and Senior Year Level children back to their classrooms.

Warm regards,



Phil Doherty (Principal)