



No 14: 13 July 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,

As you would be aware, over the weekend the Victorian State Government has made some significant announcements in relation to arrangements for the majority of schools in Victoria for Term Three. These changed arrangements to reduce the number of children and families moving across metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire should contribute to reducing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Schools will move to remote and flexible learning at home for most children in Prep to Year 10 from the start of Week Two.

**The new arrangements are set out in detail below.**

### **Arrangements for Week One: Monday 13 – Friday 17 July**

As you are aware, the Premier has extended the School Term Holidays by a week for our children. Monday 13 – Friday 17 July have been designated by the Government as student-free days; therefore, children are not required to attend school. These student-free days will enable staff to prepare for the change to remote and flexible learning from Monday 20 July.

At 10.04pm last night (Sunday 12 July) the CECV provided principals with a COVID19 Update, based on the announcement by Premier Daniel Andrews yesterday, requesting that our Catholic schools attempt to accommodate a Holiday program this week at short notice.

I spoke with Kate Butler, Regional Manager from Camp Australia earlier today who informed me that they could not provide a school holiday program for us due to their previous arrangements in place with Government schools and the availability of staff. Kate assured me that she would try to make arrangements to accommodate my request for a Holiday program to support our families this week.

## **School Supervised Care Program @ SPA: Tuesday 14 July – Friday 17 July**

In the meantime, to assist families, we will provide an onsite Supervised Care Program for children this week (for a full day or part-day) starting tomorrow Tuesday 14 July. **This program is only available for:**

- children of parents/carers who cannot make suitable arrangements to supervise their children at home on a particular day or part day, due to their work hours.
- children of teachers in schools who are required to return to work onsite on a particular day.
- children with diagnosed disabilities who parents choose to send onsite on a particular day or part day.
- children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm.
- Children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service or mental health or other health service).

To assist our planning for this program, I ask you to please complete the form sent out via Flexischools (formerly Flexibuzz) to families this afternoon and return it to us today or as soon as possible. **NB: This will be a supervised care program only with no direct teaching as all children are still on holidays.**

## **Camp Australia Before and After School Care Program Continues**

After further discussions with Camp Australia this afternoon, Camp Australia will continue to run a Before and After School Care Program re-commencing this week for those children who are granted permission to attend our Supervised Care Program. Parents can call Camp Australia Customer Care (1300105343) or book online ([campaustralia.com.au](http://campaustralia.com.au)) to make a booking.

## **Arrangements for Remote & Flexible Learning Commencing Mon 20 July**

In adhering to directives from the Victorian State Government and the CECV (Catholic Education Commission of Victoria) **all students at St Paul the Apostle school will commence Remote and Flexible learning from home on Monday 20 July and will continue for at least the next four weeks**

This means that from next week, the vast majority of our children will once again be learning from home. **It's timely to reiterate that it is expected that all students who can learn from home must learn from home.**

This will apply to all children apart from the following:

- children of parents/carers who cannot make suitable arrangements to supervise their children at home on a particular day or part day, due to their work hours
- children of teachers in schools who are required to return to work onsite on a particular day
- children with diagnosed disabilities who parents choose to send onsite on a particular day or part day
- children deemed by Child Protection and/or Family Services to be at risk of harm.
- Children identified by the school as vulnerable (including via referral from a family violence agency, homelessness or youth justice service or mental health or other health service)

## **Home and On-Site Learning Programs**

The learning program delivered on-site will be the same as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning. As a justice issue, no additional learning will be taught to those children attending school.

**NB: Based on previous numbers of children attending school onsite, they will simply follow the remote and flexible learning program that their peers will be following from home.**

## Daily Minimum Guidelines Schools are Expected to Meet for Prep to Year Ten:

### • For Prep to Year Two, schools will provide learning programs that include the following:

- Literacy activities that take a total of about **45-60 minutes**
- Numeracy activities of about **30- 45 minutes**
- Additional learning areas, play-based learning and physical activities of about **30-45 minutes**.

### • For Years Three to Six & Years Seven to Ten, schools will provide learning programs allocated as follows:

- Literacy: **45-60 minutes**
- Numeracy: **30-45 minutes**
- Physical activities: **30 minutes**
- Additional curriculum areas: **90 minutes**

## Lessons Learnt from our previous Experience of Remote & Flexible Learning

We will provide similar arrangements to those we put in place for remote and flexible learning in Term Two but with enhancements. By taking into consideration, the feedback, reflection and discussion by staff, children and parents regarding the provision of remote and flexible learning at home last term, the staff are now busily enhancing the online learning modules in readiness for next week.

The staff used a variety of collaborative thinking routines including the WWW-EBI (What Worked Well - Even Better If) thinking routine to provide them with a clearer insight into the type of learning, support and communication platforms necessary to ensure that our children were actively engaged in rich learning activities and that parents were well supported.

## Enhanced Communication Platforms

It should be stated that at this point in time, our entire Australian Education System is better prepared to accommodate remote and flexible learning based on our past experiences and the new skills and insights acquired by not only the teachers and children but parents as well. Platforms such as **ZOOM** and the soon to be activated **SEESAW** program will be used to support the children and parents during what will hopefully be a shorter period of remote and flexible learning at home.

(Seesaw is a platform for empowering children to demonstrate and share their learning. Children use powerful tools in the Seesaw program to create, reflect and demonstrate their learning. When children share their learning in their Seesaw portfolio, teachers and families gain a window into what their children know, think and how they can better support their development throughout the school year.)

The latest information about coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools is available on the Catholic Education Melbourne website: [www.cem.edu.au/Coronavirus.aspx](http://www.cem.edu.au/Coronavirus.aspx).

Victoria's Chief Health Officer has confirmed that the use of face masks or coverings by adults or children is not recommended in schools at this time. However it goes without saying that children and staff who wish to wear face masks in school may do so.

And, finally, a reminder that if you, your child or a family member develop symptoms of a fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, or loss of smell or taste, you should get tested at a coronavirus (COVID-19) testing facility and stay home.

I will continue to communicate with you as soon as we receive further information.

Keep safe and well,



Phil Doherty  
(Principal)