



“Together Be the Open Arms of Jesus”

School Theme 2021

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.”

COVID-19 SNAP LOCKDOWN UPDATE

Dear Parents and Families,

Hopefully you are keeping well and taking up this valuable opportunity today to support your child's learning and their goals during our Child-Parent-Teacher Interviews via Zoom during the day.

On Thursday 15 July 2021, the Victorian Government announced new directives to help reduce community movement and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Premier Andrews announced that Victoria would enter a Snap lockdown from 11.59 pm last night to 11.59 pm on Tuesday 20 July. This morning we received confirmation from Mr Jim Miles, Executive Director CECV that all Catholic schools will transition to Remote and Flexible learning.

Transition to Remote & Flexible learning - Friday 16 July to Tuesday 20 July inclusive.

All students will be learning from home from 16 – 20 July, except for students in the following categories:

- **Children where both parents and or carers are considered authorised workers who cannot work from home, work for an essential provider and where no other supervision arrangements can be made:**
 - Where there are two parents/carers, both must be essential workers, working outside the home in order for their children to be eligible for on-site provision.
 - For single parents/ carers, the essential worker must be working outside the home in order for their children to be eligible for on-site provision.
- **Children experiencing vulnerability, including:** - children in out-of-home care - children deemed vulnerable by a government agency, funded family or family violence service, and assessed as requiring education and care outside the family home. - children identified by a school or early childhood service as vulnerable, (including via referral from a government agency, or funded family or family violence service, homeless or youth justice service or mental health or other health service)

At this stage there is no requirement for an employer to sign their permitted workers form, however an independent audit may take place in order to verify your eligibility. Filling in this form is vitally important for organisational purposes as the school will be operating with minimal staff onsite in line with COVID-19 restrictions. NB: A school crossing supervisor may not be available on the day so essential authorised workers are asked to drop their children off at the front gate into our supervision.

Remote and Flexible Learning @ SPA

As today was already designated as a Pupil-Free day here at SPA, lessons have not be planned for today however children are still welcome to visit our Remote Learning portal to access a variety of engaging purposeful learning activities planned by their teachers. Of special interest to the children and families would be accessing the rich learning opportunities provided by our specialist teachers or by revisiting lessons from previous lockdowns.

In the meantime families are directed to the **Remote Learning** button on our school website: www.spadoren.catholic.edu.au to access their children's online learning from next Monday.

We remain confident that our insights gained from previous lockdowns will ensure that we are able to meet the challenges of remote and flexible learning once again from home for Monday and Tuesday. Teachers will continue to communicate through online applications such as Seesaw, Google drive, Zoom, emails etc.,

For the sake of our young children's wellbeing, we will continue to reassure the children that they are safe and to treat the snap lockdown as necessary but a little hiccup in life's journey...perhaps like an extended long weekend.

Even though this should be a short time away from school for our children, families will be able to access the services of Jenny McCormack, our School Counsellor/Wellbeing Leader who will continue to work closely with school staff and with Helen Timmons our Learning/Teaching and Learning Diversity Leader and with Cass our School Psychologist, to enhance wellbeing and connectedness to our community. Our caring team will also provide resources and support for our staff to help children.

NB: In the event that a child is required to isolate or undertake home-based quarantine, they can continue to access our Remote Learning portal on our school website and be provided with materials to continue their learning remotely, until such time that they are permitted to return to school.

COVID-19 Update from Camp Australia

Earlier today, we requested Brittney Hensel, General Manager of Camp Australia, to provide a Before and After School Care program for children of authorised, essential workers and vulnerable children who are permitted to attend onsite schooling for this Monday 19 & Tuesday 20 July.

Camp Australia would like to reassure us that they were well prepared and resourced and committed to the provision of a careful and considered approach to their service delivery to ensure the safety of our children and their staff.

However, as their current booking levels for Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 July before the snap lockdown did not accurately reflect the need for care for children of authorised, essential workers and vulnerable children only, they have cancelled all previously made bookings for these days.

Therefore, **should families require Outside School Hours Care**, they must visit the Parent Portal to book their care for Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 July as required.

These measures, however inconvenient, are aimed at giving health authorities the best opportunity to stop the spread of this deadly virus in our community.

Keep safe and well and we look forward to welcoming families back to SPA next Wednesday 21 July. A special reminder to all families that our school day officially starts at 8.55am with prayers, special greetings and the taking of the attendance roll around the prayer cloth.



Phil Doherty (Principal)