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Dear Emmaus families,

Re: COVID-19 (coronavirus) update #7

Just to keep you posted, here is the latest COVID-19 advice as it affects our Emmaus school community:

Schools to remain open -until further notice

Yesterday the Prime Minister indicated that schools were to remain open. This decision is consistent with the best medical advice available and is in the public interest. Our school remains open and will operate until the end of term. If this decision changes I will inform you immediately.

The Prime Minister also advised that parents may choose to have their child learn from home, however these children will be required to be properly supervised at home and not congregate outside of home with other young people. I ask that you inform us if it is your intention to keep your child at home. The school will provide learning through email in this instance.

I acknowledge the difficulties that our families are experiencing at this challenging time. Rest assured that we are doing all we can to manage the safety and wellbeing of your child. I thank you for your trust and understanding. If you have any need to speak to me about your own personal circumstances, please feel free to contact me and I will arrange to speak with you at a convenient time.

Easter Raffle

Unfortunately, due to an absence of volunteers, money handling, social distancing and more, we have had to cancel the Easter Raffle this year. I appreciate the work of the Parents and Friends in organising this fundraiser and the families that have already sent in donations. Due to the seasonal nature of this fundraiser, it is not possible to postpone this raffle until later in the year. We will try to come up with a creative way to use the donations that have already come in.

Parent /Teacher/ Student learning Conversations

These conversations will go ahead but via phone or video conference however, they will be rescheduled when there is some clarity around school closure. Presently, staff are working to maintain quality face to face teaching while preparing work for the high number of students who are absent, while they also undertake the necessary planning and professional learning in preparation for the possibility of a school closure. We appreciate your understanding here.

Learning for students who are self-isolating or being kept home as a preventative measure

Presently, more than 30% of our students are absent from school, either due to a short term illness, self-isolation or as a preventative measure. This situation presents challenges for teachers who must endeavor to accommodate continuity of learning for children in the classroom and those at home. We remain committed to the learning of all students – whether at home or at school. We ask for your understanding, if you are keeping your children home. Learning will be provided but please allow 24 hours for your child's teacher to send appropriate learning home. This will be sent via email.

Dental Visit

The dental visit scheduled for next week, has been cancelled. The low student numbers and possible increase of visitors to site with this arrangement, make this a necessary postponement. We will certainly reschedule later in the year.

School is safe

If you choose to continue sending your children to school, please know that they are safe. Be assured that we continue to incorporate regular hand washing and social distance into our routines here at school and we encourage you to do the same at home. All surfaces, including student desks, are regularly disinfected, handles and commonly used surfaces are cleaned regularly throughout the day. We do not assemble as a whole school and we have deferred all activities that require classes to mix.

Stay tuned

Please stay informed by regularly checking for further email updates from our school. We also recommend the following sources for COVID-19 news related to Catholic Schools in SA

The CESA website Alerts page - <https://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/alerts>

The CESA facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicEducationSA/>

Keep going!

These are unprecedented times! Wherever your children are, at school or at home, I encourage you to embrace the different opportunities that are presenting themselves, to look for the joy and be grateful for your health and your family.

Kind regards,



Catherine Gurr
Principal

24th March 2020