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Dear Emmaus families,

Re: COVID-19 (coronavirus) update #8

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

Easter Raffle

In response to the queries from some families, I want to let you know that any already money paid for the Easter Raffle will be returned to families. If families paid cash, that will be returned in cash. Families who paid electronically, will have their school account credited that amount. Families are welcome to pick up any donations they made or alternatively, donations not claimed, will be donated to St Vinnies for delivery to those families doing it rough at the moment.

OSHC Permanent Bookings

I am pleased to inform you that the OSHC Committee have agreed that if a families' use of OSHC is impacted by the COVID-19, permanent bookings may be cancelled immediately. Usually, to cancel permanent bookings, two weeks notice would be required. Given the changing nature of people's work arrangements, families may email oshc@emmaus.catholic.edu.au or info@emmaus.catholic.edu.au with a sentence requesting permanent booking/s to be cancelled and no penalty will be applied. We hope this is helpful to those families who might ordinarily access OSHC but who now find they do not require the service.

Social Distancing

In an effort to support the Government's Social Distance message and to maintain everyone's health, we respectfully ask families to either use the 'Kiss and Drop' in the mornings, when dropping students at school or if families are walking students to class, to deliver students to the classroom and leave promptly. This is difficult for us as a community who prides itself on relationships and connection but it is necessary at this time, to reduce the possible spread of the disease. It won't be forever and we look forward to the time we can welcome everyone back and encourage you to stay and connect with your child's learning and other community members.

Student Absences

If you have made the decision to keep your child/ren home, could you please let office staff know how long you anticipate your child will be away? If you have made the decision to keep your child away until the end of the term or the end of the week, please let our Admin Team know. This will reduce the administrative time spent checking in with so many families each day. If you are making this decision on a day to day basis, that's fine too. Our Admin Team will continue to check in with families they haven't heard from, daily.

Drinking Fountains and COVID-19

Catholic Education SA has fielded some questions over the use of drinking fountains in schools, during this pandemic. They have consulted with the Department for Health and we are adopting their advice. All students should bring a water bottle to school and to refill from water fountains, if needed,

rather than putting “mouths to the spout”. We have been assured that as long as there is a process for regular cleaning / wiping of the fountains, accompanied by the general hygiene advice for students, they are safe to use. Our fountains are cleaned regularly and as such, are safe to use.

We are moving Junior Primary Classes

In readiness for our building programme, Junior Primary classes will be moving to their temporary spaces, tomorrow. The students and teachers are excited for this move, which will be facilitated by furniture removalists tomorrow. It will mean that these classes will be briefly interrupted as teachers work to put everything back in place. I thank our teachers for their dedication to our students and appreciate your understanding with this.

Circular from Fr Philip Marshall

If ever there was a time for prayer – it’s now! You will find communication at this link from Fr Philip Marshall outlining new regulations for the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide.

[New Regulations: Circular from Fr Philip Marshall](#)

Fr Philip has also provided us with information calling on communities to pause for prayer at 8am each Friday until Pentecost. Information about this initiative can be found here [Circular from Fr Philip Marshall: Communities to pause for prayer](#)

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/>

Thank you

I want to thank you all for your support during this challenging time. Your positive messages and gestures mean a lot to me and our staff. I also want to thank the wonderful Emmaus staff who continue to go above and beyond for our school and their students, making them excellent role models and teachers.

Keep up the great work everyone!

Kind regards,



Catherine Gurr
Principal

24th March 2020