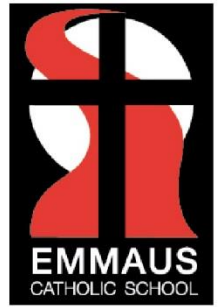

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Dear Emmaus families,

Re: COVID-19 (coronavirus) update #20

This will be the last update for a while. It's time to rest my fingers and my brain. I hope that you all enjoy a happy and safe Easter break with your families.

Remote Learning Term 2

As you are aware, we will be moving to 'Remote Learning' for all students from the beginning of next term. Remote Learning is simply learning that can be done away from school. Some of this learning will be online but we have been very conscious in planning this learning to, provide students with some learning time away from screens and to minimise the drain on family data plans. For these reasons, Emmaus Remote Learning will be a mix of electronic and hard copy learning.

Staff have prepared a learning pack for each child in our school. Every morning teachers of students in R-4 classes will post a morning video greeting for their classes, outlining the daily learning, in the packs. Students in year 5 and 6 will join in a video conference with their class, each day. Year 5/6 students will receive a weekly 'Memo' outlining the learning for the week. The learning has been devised to revise and extend existing understandings. We hope that students will be able to manage this learning with minimal direction from their caregivers. There are additional activities suggested for any students who want extra learning during the day. There will be assessment pieces set during this Remote Learning period, which parents will be asked to upload for teacher assessment.

Students continuing to attend school each day, will work through the same booklets. Students working at home some days and coming to school some days, will need to bring their pack, to and from school.

For families who are keeping their children at home for the beginning of term 2, these packs will be available for collection on the last Friday of the holidays (24th April), between 9 and 2, from the Hall. Students returning to school for term 2, will collect their own packs from the Hall, Monday morning (27th April).

If Government directives change over the holidays, the plan may change. Just keep checking your emails for any new updates, if this occurs.

OSHC

Many of you would be aware that the Government announced the Child Care Relief Package last week. This package is good news for families but not so for our school. We are being paid 50% of billed amount for the last fortnight in February (they are calling this the 'reference fortnight'). So regardless of the actual numbers going forward, we are paid, half the amount billed in that reference fortnight. The package was designed to be used in tandem with the JobKeeper allowance. Catholic school staff are not eligible for this allowance so our wage costs are not off-set at all.

What does this all mean? It means the amount we are being paid by the Government, does not cover our wages, let alone food, resources or activities. To minimise our losses, we are running a skeleton staff. To do this, we can't cater for large groups of students. For this reason, we are asking families to only use the service if they need it. If families have no alternative care arrangement, the service is there but the more students using it, the bigger our loss, so we are asking families to carefully consider their care options.

COVID-19 is affecting all of us in different ways and our school is not immune to the affects of this pandemic. Families losing their income is having an affect on our anticipated fee revenue. To off-set this, we are making extensive budget cuts and there have been some salary reductions. We need to work together to minimise the financial impact of this pandemic on our school staff and services.

Bookings will still be available through Fully Booked, but parents must be up to date with their accounts if they want to access the service and again, we respectfully ask families to consider their care options.

All the news

All these COVID-19 updates have been saved to our website.

<https://www.emmaus.catholic.edu.au/news-events/covid-19-emmaus-updates> The Fee Remission Form can also be found under the Enrolment Tab – ‘School Fees’ section of the website.

Happy Easter everyone!

Catherine

9th April 2020