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Dear Emmaus families,

Re: COVID-19 (coronavirus) update #21

I hope you all enjoyed a break of some sort over the holidays and that you are ready for your children to return to their learning routine, either at home or at school in term 2.

Student transition back to school in Term 2

On Wednesday the SA Chief Public Health Officer, Nicola Spurrier, and Premier Marshall stated that parents should plan to send their children back to school. Professor Spurrier repeated health advice that schools continue to be safe places for students and staff.

In keeping with this advice, all schools in Catholic Education SA are encouraging parents and carers to send their children back to school in Week 1 of Term 2, while recognising that some might want to wait a little longer.

I have attached letters from Bishop Greg O’Kelly and Dr Spurrier which provide more background information about this decision.

In Week 1, while we see student numbers returning, our staff will deliver learning in an online mode to all students, whether they are at school or at home. We will review this during the week and then make refinements in readiness for Week 2 as part of our transition back to face to face learning for all here at school.

During this time of transition in Term 2, the health and wellbeing of students and staff remain our priority. We will continue to ensure that our school is a safe environment with appropriate physical distancing (where possible), hygiene and additional cleaning measures in place.

Whether you drive your children to and from school, or walk to school, for now we need all parents and carers to drop off and pick up children at the gates or Kiss and Drop area. Please stay in your car if possible. We understand that some students may need their parent’s reassurance and will need to be walked to class – this is okay. We do ask that parents do not stop in the yard to socialise.

On Monday morning we will start our online learning program as planned. If you are keeping your child at home, please follow the advice provided in the learning packs. Students returning should return to their usual classrooms where they will be met by their own class teachers. PE, Music and Indonesian will continue as normal. Instrumental lessons and ensembles will also resume for students who are ready and wanting to re-commence.

OSHC Bookings

As explained in the last update, under the new Early Childhood education and Care Relief Package, our service is running at a considerable loss. While we await advice and hopefully additional funding, we will be operating a single staff member service. This will mean that sessions will be limited to 15 students. We respectfully ask that families only use this care option if they have no alternative. Priority for sessions will be given to essential workers on the front line and those going to their workplace to work. All sessions are now casual and pre-existing permanent bookings have been cancelled. Until further notice, all families wanting to use the service will need to book their children in for each session.

New Enrolments 2020

To support new enrolments in our schools this year, CESA has decided that no fees will be

charged for Terms 3 and 4, for students commencing Reception in Term 3 in 2020, in any of our Catholic schools. This decision has been taken in recognition of COVID-19 impact on families and our sector. If any of you have family or friends considering enrolment here at Emmaus, please encourage them to make contact with us. We only have a limited number of places at our school which will be given on a first come basis.

A new beginning

We are genuinely excited at the prospect of students returning to school and as we navigate through this transition back to school together, we acknowledge that there may be a few challenges along the way. We appreciate the partnership we have with families and look forward to overcoming any challenges together.

Whether you choose to send your child to school, or keep them at home a little longer, our staff are ready to support your child in their learning.

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.



Catherine Gurr

Principal

24th April 2020