



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

McLennan Street, Mooroopna. 3629. Phone: (03) 5825 2858. Fax: (03) 5825 4026
P.O. Box 259, Mooroopna 3629

"Let your light shine"

20th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all healthy and coping with what has been such an uncertain time. It is great that the Premier has announced the easing of restrictions and I know everyone is looking forward to getting back to school.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) have advised that schools can begin a phased return to onsite schooling.

Return to school Dates:

Monday 25th May Pupil Free Day. No remote learning - ALL Grades.

Tuesday 26 May Gr Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students return to school (full weeks)

Tuesday 9 June Gr 3 – 6 students resume (full weeks)

For those students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of onsite schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to request onsite schooling is required will continue for this two-week period.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to onsite schooling, we can no longer provide remote learning from home. This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan. This same approach is being taken by all Catholic and government schools in Victoria.

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will be implementing an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent hand washing and sanitising. If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, schools have been directed to strictly adhere to a large list of rules during this early stage of restrictions. It is essential that parents, carers, students and staff are clear on the following regulations:

Morning Drop off

Children are expected to be dropped off directly from cars at our drop off points (Marian Centre, Hall St, McLennan St or Emma St). Parents of Prep/1 students or those with additional needs are permitted to walk their children into the courtyard at the beginning of the school day and at pick them up at the conclusion of the day. **Unfortunately parents are not permitted inside classrooms** and are asked to phone administration to organise a time to speak with teachers.

Pick Up Times

3:10pm Prep and Students with Surnames A-L

3:20pm Student Surnames M-Z

School Buses will run at regular times.

Please note that parents are NOT permitted to congregate in the school grounds at the end of the school day. Parents are required to pick children up in their cars from one of the school pick up points – Marian Centre Roundabout, Emma St, Hall St Gate or McLennan St.

Health and Safety Measures

Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitiser each time they return into the classroom (or whenever necessary). Students will also sanitise their hands when they exit the classroom at the end of the school day.

During outside playtimes, number limits and play alternatives will be introduced to eliminate large groups of children playing together on the playground equipment.

School bubbler taps are not permitted to be used. **Each child is required to have their own drink bottle** which will also be taken outside with them during playtimes. The drink bottles should be clearly named and easily identified (particularly for younger students). With so many drink bottles being taken outside, a second recyclable bottle may be a better option for junior students.

Cleaning

High touch surfaces (door handles, table tops, chairs etc) are required to be cleaned during the day, as well as after students have left at the end of the day. The adventure playgrounds and all exterior handrails will be disinfected at the end of each day. Unfortunately families are not permitted to use the playgrounds after school.

Staff are not (generally) required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPT), however gloves, masks, aprons and goggles are available if requested by staff. PPT will be used if the need arises, such as administering medical assistance.

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state. More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the CECV website, which will continue to be updated: www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents.

Day before to do list:

1. Discuss and explain the new rules and regulations with your child.
2. Decide upon a pick up point with your child and ensure they are clear with where to go.
3. Ensure your child's drink bottle is clearly labeled. You may choose to send a second drink bottle. A less expensive recyclable water bottle would be fine for playtime use.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. However, we are all looking forward to welcoming students back into the classroom.

Yours Sincerely,



Anthony Butts
Principal.