



30 April 2020

Dear St Joseph's Primary School Community,

I write to you to provide additional information about the **managed return to school at St Joseph's Primary School Wee Waa**.

In Week 1 and 2 of Term 2, schools are officially open to the children of Essential frontline workers only. However, no student will be turned away from any Catholic school in the Diocese of Armidale. **From Week 3 of Term 2, the managed return of students to face-to-face learning will commence.**

Unless students are attending on their assigned days, (refer to Timetabling of attendance at school below) students will have different staff rostered on to supervise their blended learning.

Therefore from Monday, May 11, the following information applies:

Learning experiences

Students who attend school will undertake the same online learning experiences as those students who continue their learning from home. Therefore, it remains an individual family decision as to whether students return to school or continue their learning from home. Leaders of Learning will continue to plan learning experiences and post these on your child's Google Classroom. You will continue to have Daily Overview and Check-in Zoom sessions. It is essential to understand that students will be completing the learning assigned to them from their Leaders of Learning. There is still only one mode of learning and this is to remain until we are informed from the Catholic Schools Office Armidale and Catholic Schools NSW.

Chromebooks & Learning Packs

Each day students are to bring with them a **charged** Chromebook (School Issued Device) and their learning packs. These learning packs have an exercise book and any paper based work they have completed while at home. Students can also bring in a pencil case of their own, if they would like, however, there are school supplies available. If your child has been using a personal digital device (computer, iPad etc), they will be issued with a device at school. The school-issued devices need to be brought to school in their school bags and will be placed in their bags at the end of the day.

High-risk students and staff

Students who meet the [NSW Health definition](#) of 'higher risk' should not attend school for any reason. Students who are displaying any signs of illness must also remain at home. Please be aware that we have some staff at our school who meet the NSW Health definition of 'higher risk', and these staff members will continue to work from home. Staff will also be required to stay away from school if they are displaying any sign of illness.

Health and hygiene

We remind parents that your child's mental health and wellbeing is an important consideration in the decision to have them return to school. Centacare has expanded its [services](#) to ensure that support can still be provided during this period. Students are still able to access the free and confidential counselling service by calling Centacare Armidale on 6738 7200.

The Catholic Schools Office is making every effort to source ongoing supplies of hand sanitiser for use in schools and to enable additional cleaning where possible.

Students who become unwell at school

In accordance with our school policy and existing procedures, students who become unwell at school, coughing, or have cold and flu signs and symptoms; will be moved to the sickbay. Parents will be called to collect students who are unwell.

Social distancing, Health & Safety procedures and student behaviours

Students who present at school must abide by the Health & Safety procedures implemented at St Joseph's Wee Waa. If these procedures are not followed, we will ring parents and emergency contacts to collect students. Parents are also encouraged to discuss with students the importance of social distancing requirements and to encourage students to travel directly to and from school and home, and not visit other places such as shops during their travel.

Health & Safety Procedures at St Joseph's Wee Waa

- Students will enter the school via the front office gate
- On arrival, all students are to wash hands with soap and proceed to marked spots under the COLA
- Children are collected by Leaders of Learning and taken into classrooms
- Children are provided with their own learning space. This will be where they are to complete their online learning
- Upon entering the classroom (throughout the day), students are mandated to use hand sanitiser
- Children will wash hands before and after eating during school time
- Children will have marked spots where they can sit to eat, to maintain social distancing regulations
- Only selected sports equipment can be used during the day, these are to be regularly sanitised
- Individual learning spaces are to be sanitised daily

Canteen, Drink Bottles and other items

The school canteen will remain closed for the present time. Students need to bring their own food and labelled water bottles. For the health and safety of our students and staff, unfortunately, this also includes birthday cakes and special treats are not to be brought to school.

Pick up and drop off times and social distancing for parents

Parents or carers are requested to drop off students by 8.50 am. We request that parents or carers do not enter the classrooms and stay under the COLA or in the office if needed. Parents or carers who are displaying any signs of illness should not enter the school grounds. It is also important that we ask that parents ensure that they follow social distancing requirements and not congregate with others during pick up and drop off times.

Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP)

The Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP) continues to operate under the NSW Health social distancing and hygiene Guidelines.

Timetabling of attendance at school

Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Monday - Kinder Tuesday - Stage 1 Wednesday - Stage 2 Thursday - Stage 3 Friday - Essential frontline workers	Monday - Kinder/Stage 1 Tuesday - Stage 2/ Stage 3 Wednesday - Kinder/Stage 1 Thursday - Stage 2/ Stage 3 Friday - Essential frontline workers	Monday - Kinder/Stage 1 Tuesday - Stage 2/ Stage 3 Wednesday - Kinder/Stage 1 Thursday - Stage 2/ Stage 3 Friday - Essential frontline workers

Attendance

If your child continues to learn from home, their attendance will still be recorded as learning from home. This is to ensure that when the government collates attendance information, your child is not listed as absent, as this will appear on your child's school report.

Term 2 Sport

All Diocesan and Interdiocesan school sport scheduled for Term 2 has been cancelled.

Please be assured that staff at St Joseph's Wee Waa will continue to work together to provide the very best blended learning experiences for our students and to support their pastoral care and wellbeing during this challenging time. We thank you for your understanding during these unprecedented times.

Further information regarding the remainder of Term 2 will be communicated by the end of Week 5.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss your family's individual needs during the managed return to school.

Kind regards,



Alistair Stewart
Principal