



Tuesday 19 May 2020

Dear Families

TRANSITION BACK TO ONSITE LEARNING.

I, along with the staff look forward to welcoming you all back to school and I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. Over recent times we have experienced a significant change to the way we go about our daily living with changes to almost all that we do and sometimes even take for granted the freedom with which we go about our daily lives.

We are now working towards the return to face to face learning for F-2 from May 26 and Year 3-6 from June 9. Below, I have outlined the way in which the remainder of term 2 will unfold. I will write to you all either later this term or during the term holidays, once details are clearer about further restrictions being lifted/alterd due to later government directives.

The way we all interact with and work in our school has changed. While some measures are almost counter cultural to all that we believe in and enjoy about being part of the St Brigid's community, they are necessary for the continued health and safety for all in our community: students, parents, staff and our extended family and friends.

The plans outlined below are in place for the remainder of term 2:

COVID -19 Restrictions

As you are all aware, if you are unwell, have been tested and yet to receive results or have been diagnosed with the virus, you and your child/children must stay home as specified by health professionals.

All social distancing rules for adults apply here at St Brigid's with a raised standard specified for this term (see below). If you are not classified as an essential worker, then you must work from home. If you are working from home then your Year 3-6 child will return on June 9 2020. **Your Year 3-6 child/children do not automatically attend school with their F-2 sibling.** The remote learning process will continue for the Year 3-6 students, ending on June 5 2020.

There will be no parent/carer access to the school grounds for the remainder of term 2. This will be altered to reflect government directives when we are advised to do so.

Start of Day Procedure

We will be having a staggered start to every school day – with students being dropped off in the following way. This allows for a 30 minute window to allow all of our students to arrive:

- Students with surnames beginning with A-K will enter via the Chute St gate from 8.30am – 9.00am
- Students with surnames beginning with L-Z will enter via the Barkly St gate from 8.30am – 9.00am
- These gate will be locked at 9.00am
- Families accessing Team Kids must only use the Chute St gate and call the program number on arrival so a team member can come to the gate to collect your child with the iPad to facilitate the sign in process.
- Families are expected to adhere to the social distancing rules around the entry points to the school, observing the markings on the ground or waiting in cars until gates are open or parking a distance away and walking down to school
- Please be mindful of other pedestrians in our community as well when waiting on the footpath
- Wendy Sullivan and I will be at the gates greeting you all in the morning and supplying a serve of hand sanitiser to each child to use on entry to school.
- Families are asked not to congregate where possible, observing current government directives (these may change in the coming weeks)
- Remember to respect our neighbours also when parking in surrounding streets.
- Any late arrivals must enter the via school office following the procedures outlined on the entry doors.

End of Day Procedure

We will be having a staggered end to every school day – with students dismissed in the following way. This allows for a 30 minute window to allow all of our students to be collected:

- Students with surnames beginning with A-K will exit via the Chute or Barkly St gate from 3.00pm – 3.15pm
- Students with surnames beginning with L-Z will exit via the Chute or Barkly St gate from 3.15pm – 3.30pm
- These gate will be locked at 3.30pm
- Students will not be dismissed into the community at random, students will follow their usual travel plans home. Additional staff will support this process inside our school grounds.
- Students attending Team Kids will arrive at 3.15pm into the program
- Families accessing Team Kids must only use the Chute St gate and call the program number on arrival so a team member can come to the gate with your child and the iPad to facilitate the sign out process.
- Families are expected to adhere to the social distancing rules around the entry points to the school, observing the markings on the ground or waiting in cars until gates are open or parking a distance away and walking down to school
- Please be mindful of other pedestrians in our community as well when waiting on the footpath
- Wendy Sullivan and I will be at the gates farewelling you all in the afternoons and supplying a serve of hand sanitiser to each child to use on exit from school.
- Families are asked not to congregate where possible, observing current government directives (these may change in the coming weeks)

- Remember to respect our neighbours also when parking in surrounding streets.
- Families who are not able to collect by 3.30pm are asked to make arrangements with Team Kids.

Sanitation and Cleaning

Our school is always well cleaned and maintained. However we now have increased cleaning routines and procedures to ensure safety for all in our families and extended community. Our adventure playground will be cleaned prior to the start of each day, toilets cleaned after recess, lunch and end of day, all high touch areas cleaned multiple times per day and increased vacuuming of all soft flooring in our school. We have been given clear directives by the State Government and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria, which we are in full compliance with.

Student Attendance

From Tuesday 26 May:

- Foundation – Year 2: all students return to onsite learning (**no remote learning available**)
- Year 3 - Year 6: Remote learning continues (onsite remote learning available to those who qualify for this service – refer to Caremonkey letter May 19)

From Tuesday 9 June:

- All Foundation to Year 2 students continue with onsite learning
- Year 3 – Year 6: Return to onsite learning (**no remote learning available**)

Variation to onsite activities

For the remainder of term 2 the following restrictions are in place as per issued directives:

- No classroom helpers
- Changes to take home reader program (F-2)
- No library access – reopening Term 3
- No canteen
- No excursions, visiting presenters, camps, assemblies
- Limitation of further adults onsite – trades excepted
- No face to face speech therapists, psychologists, OT therapists or other approved therapists – (Please contact me re online service provision)
- No consumption of water from communal drink taps – **please ensure your child has a refillable water bottle each day**
- No food sharing or extra treats to share with classmates due to birthdays, etc

Remote Learning – Years 3-6 (26 May – 5 June)

If your Year 3-6 student/s can learn from home they must learn from home. This is to facilitate the staggered return to school for students in Victoria. If your child/children requires onsite remote learning, please specify the required days in the Caremonkey Survey. All Year 3- Year 6 families must complete the Caremonkey survey sent out on 19 May.

Access to this facility is for the limited number of students who need to be onsite on given days as their parents (classified as essential workers) are not at home to

supervise their remote learning. ***If your child/children have been in this program to date, you must complete this survey again to update our lists going forward as your circumstances may have changed. This is not an entitlement for students with younger siblings at school from May 26.*** Your partnership with us to date with the remote learning program has been fantastic, not long to go now.

Access to Staff

As there is no adult access via the classroom on any given day at the moment, please email your child's class teacher or phone the office and leave a message for them at the school office. Once we have the playground space free for access, obviously dropping in to see your child's teacher will continue as per pre COVID-19 practices.

Semester 1 Reports and Interviews

A modified Student achievement report for semester 1 will be sent home to families in the last week of this term. Parent teacher meeting /Student Lead conferences will take place early next term to discuss progress and set goals for the second semester.

End of Term 2 2020

We are scheduled to break for Term holidays on Friday 26 June at 1.30pm.

On a final note, thank you once again for all that you have done as parents to support the remote learning program. I must also commend the staff for all that they have done in this space – a great team effort by all. I look forward to the return of our students, staff and families over the coming days and weeks. While these restrictions are onerous, they will hopefully change and lessen in time. I look forward to us resuming all that is so fantastic about St Brigid's – a wonderful and caring community which we are all proud to be a part of.

I wish you all continued health and safety as we navigate this unique time in our lives.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Russo', is positioned above the typed name.

Michael Russo
Principal