

GALILEE REGIONAL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

IN CHRIST WE LIVE, LOVE & LEARN

School Fees 2020

September 7, 2020

Dear Families,

We understand that the health and safety of everyone is the most important thing in all our lives at the moment and we genuinely hope that everyone within our community is managing as best they can with the impact COVID-19 has had on their lives. However, like some homes, the school also has bills and financial obligations that we must meet and that is the reason for this letter.

Thank-you to the families who have: paid 2020 school fees in full, are following agreed payment plans or contacted the school earlier this year to make alternative arrangements due to financial hardship. We understand that some families are experiencing financial hardship which is why we sent out communications on June 23 and July 27 asking these families to request how we could assist you.

At this stage, we have approximately **\$250,000 in unpaid school fees** that were due to be paid by August 21.

Whilst the delivery of the learning has changed and placed pressures on households and families and the school to do things differently, the majority of the costs to the school have remained the same or even increased in some areas. School fees are fundamental in the overall funding and running costs of the school.

2020 School Fees

We are currently reconciling the fees and charges that have been paid by families and what is outstanding from 2020. The final instalment of school fees was due on **August 21** *unless a prior agreement* had been made with the *school Principal*.

As a school, we realise that our fees include anticipated (or agreed costs) in relation to extra-curricular items such as camps, swimming lessons and excursions. For some events that did not occur in 2020 (or will not occur in Term 4) **we will be offering a rebate to our families who have paid the school fees in full by 18 September 2020**. The rebate will be balanced against additional costs such as cleaning and digital technology and carried forward and applied against 2021 fees for our continuing families. For our families not at Galilee in 2021, alternative arrangements will be made.

However, before the school can make a decision on the amount of the rebate, the Victorian Government need to confirm more details on the status of education in Term 4, which we are expecting by October 25. There is a possibility that camps and excursions planned for Term 4 may not proceed. The rebate offered will differ between year levels, depending upon events missed and will be specified after the update on October 25.

We have also deferred the \$200 late fee to allow those families not on an approved payment plan, sufficient time to bring their accounts up to date. The late fee will apply to accounts not settled by 18 September 2020, who are not on an approved payment plan.

As stated in our [2020 Schedule of Fees and Charges](#) on the school website: If parents fail to communicate or adhere to agreed payment plans after the other attempts have been made, the following actions may occur:

- Camps/excursions/incursions/Graduation impacted;
- Semester Reports withheld;
- Debt Collection agency engaged; and as a last resort: enrolment status may be impacted.

Financial Hardship

We are very conscious of the financial hardship experienced by some families in our school community. We have sent home on two occasions (June 23 and July 27) communication offering families who are financially impacted

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by COVID-19 the opportunity to fill in a **Financial Hardship Application Form** (due to COVID-19) or a **Financial Management Application Form** (due to reasons prior to COVID-19).

Please contact Wendy Dalton via email, wdalton@gsm.vic.edu if you are unable to reconcile school fees (and are not on an agreed payment plan) by **September 18**, to arrange a confidential conversation.

Please note that a separate letter is also being sent home today, summarising the impact of the Premier's announcement yesterday.

Best wishes to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Millar
Principal
Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School