



## PARENT BRIEFING #1 - TERM ONE

Thursday 28 January 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers

A warm welcome to all new and returning families. After the many challenges we faced during 2020, I hope the holidays were a time for you to spend precious time with family, and the students are refreshed and ready for lots of learning and fun. At the outset of the 2021 school year, it is important that we reflect on the extraordinary challenges our schools faced last year – learning to operate within stringent guidelines, rapidly pivoting to remote teaching and learning, and finding creative and inspired ways to maintain a sense of community through the disruptions that COVID-19 brought.

As you will be aware, apart from the modifications to border arrangements for travellers, there has been no change to the COVID-19 Roadmap by the Premier since schools closed in December. The Western Australian Government COVID-19 Roadmap remains at Phase 4 and the CEWA Phase 4 School Operations Guidelines issued on 29 June 2020 remains in place.

1. The health and safety of our students and staff remain my first priority.
2. All students will continue to be provided with a quality Catholic education.
3. Decisions regarding school education will continue to be informed by National and State-based health and education advice, and align with the National Principles for School Education.

It is wonderful to note that WA has kept community transmission at bay for 9 months so I would like to share a message from the Premier's Facebook page, where Mark McGowan labelled this as an incredible achievement everyone should be proud of, congratulating us all .....*"It's the direct result of the vigilance and hard work of all Western Australians, doing the right thing....."*

With the imminent threat of the more contagious COVID-19 strain infecting persons in other countries, I am looking at minimising, as much as possible, the number of parents on site at any one time to keep our community safe. I encourage parents of students from **Years 2 to Year 6** to use the drive through 'kiss and drop' facility via **Gates # 3 and #6** which will be supervised by staff so the children have a friendly face to welcome them back to school.

**PLEASE NOTE: CLASS LISTS WILL BE SENT HOME TO PARENTS VIA SEESAW AND EMAIL, BEFORE THE WEEKEND, SO YOUR CHILD WILL KNOW WHICH CLASS THEY WILL BE IN AND THEY CAN GO STRAIGHT THERE TO BE WARMLY WELCOMED BY THE CLASS TEACHERS.**

**PRE PRIMARY TO YEAR 6 - CLASSROOMS WILL BE OPENED EARLIER ON MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY (FROM 8.20am) TO ALLOW ALL OUR STUDENTS TO SETTLE IN, AS PARENTS ARE UNABLE TO ENTER THE CLASSROOMS WITH STUDENTS PRESENT.**

**PRE KINDY & KINDY – CLASSROOMS WILL BE OPENED AT 8.45**

Familiar staff will be stationed at gates #1, #12 & #13 for our **Pre Primary and Year 1 students** to welcome the children into the school grounds. We encourage you to hand them over to the staff so we do not put any children or staff at unnecessary risk with the influx of adults into the grounds.

**Kindy parents**, as you have a staggered start with only ten students arriving each day this week, could you please enter the school using Gate #1 (Carpark 1 at the bottom of Tuart Rd – see attached map) and walk up the pathway to access the ELC area via the gate at the top of the ramp. I gently remind you again, that no parents are able to enter the classrooms when there are children present. **Pre Kindy parents** – as there will be no Kindy students in the area when your children arrive please use the same entry gates and protocols as the Kindy parents, as outlined above.

With your full support, we have worked extremely diligently to ensure your children are kept as safe as possible all last year and we will continue to follow Government advice about adults keeping the two square metre physical distancing rule. If any parents need to speak to a teacher about any urgent matters relating to their child, please email them prior to Monday to arrange a time to meet once the children have had a few days to settle in. If the matter can't wait and you are not able to explain it via an email, till you meet, I know the teachers will do their best to schedule a meeting as soon as possible.

#### **STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOL – THREE YEAR OLD PRE-KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6**

- Please remember that **only school children are to enter classrooms and parents must abide by the two square metre rule distancing from all students and from other families when on the school grounds.**
- Until further notice, assemblies, excursions, interschool activities and school-based co-curricular activities will continue in the same format as 2020. Class assemblies will be run twice on the scheduled Friday, once for the students and the second for the parents of the class. Whole School Prayer will be filmed and sent to parents of the class via Seesaw.
- The school will continue to ensure that environmental cleaning practices are in place, with enhanced routines where necessary.
- Students will be required to continue with the hygiene practices put in place in 2020 and will need to follow the physical distancing measures of two square metres from visitors to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

I will keep you updated with any changes and I thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Andrea Millar  
PRINCIPAL