



Monday 23rd March

Dear parents and caregivers,

In line with the latest advice from Commonwealth and WA governments, St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School is planning to remain open at least until the end of term to provide the best possible education to your children. In line with Prime Minister and the WA Minister for Education's advice, parents may choose to keep their children at home during this unprecedented time.

State and territory Premiers and Chief Ministers have committed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee advice that says that it is safe to keep schools open.

In considering the potential risks associated with COVID-19, our school has been working with Catholic Education Western Australia in conjunction with the WA Department of Health and the Department of Education throughout the evolution of COVID-19, to ensure we have the best possible preparedness and response strategies in place.

We are working hard to ensure our teaching and learning continuity plan supports students to engage in remote learning should our school be required to close. Those students who are not attending school because parents have chosen not to send them will be able to engage with their learning by:

- ***K-3 Learning Packs & SeeSaw Digital Platform***
- ***4-6 Learning Packs & Teams/OneNote Digital Platforms***

For students who are not attending school, learning packs will be available for collection at the following times at the front office only (please do not visit classrooms):

- **Tuesday 24th March from 2:00pm - 4:00pm**
- **Wednesday 25th March from 8:00am – 10:00am**

These learning packs outline a range of activities that will be mirrored in the classroom. The packs are timetabled with daily activities for the children, Day 1 being Wednesday the 25th March. We encourage parents and children to adhere to the suggested timetable in order to maximise learning.

Please note that this learning will be supplemented by the digital platforms in preparation for possible school closures in the future. Parents and students are asked to regularly access SeeSaw (K-3), and Teams (4-6) for teacher communication. Staff will be trialling the use of these digital platforms in the coming days and weeks to help best prepare children and families. Please be patient and engage with the technology as needed.

Please be assured that while the school remains open, social distancing will be enforced, and cleaning regimes will continue to be completed to the highest possible standards to mitigate risks associated with the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I ask that you also have conversations with your child about the importance of these measures. If your child is feeling unwell in any way, please keep them at home.





In acknowledging the far-reaching impact of COVID-19 for families in our school community, I also assure parents that we remain determined that no family seeking a Catholic education for their child be denied the opportunity due to financial difficulty. Catholic Education Western Australia is addressing potential concerns relating to fees and affordability that may arise as a result of COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a changing situation that is affecting many areas of our lives, and it is normal for all of us to feel anxious and worried, your child included.

Our teachers and other school staff are doing a wonderful job in providing pastoral support to students at this challenging time. It is important to remember that as parents, you can help your child process all the information they are receiving and the changes that are taking place around COVID-19. You can stay informed and provide factual, age appropriate information about COVID-19 that will help your child feel informed and empowered, rather than afraid.

Everyone in the community has a part to play in helping control the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to follow the latest advice of the Department of Health. I will keep you informed about any changes for our school as updates become available. Please refer to our school website for the latest communication www.stfrancisbutler.wa.edu.au

Thank you for your support at this time, and as a Catholic community I encourage all of you to pray for those coordinating our response in Australia, and for all of those in Australia and abroad affected by COVID-19.

As always, I ask that you contact me directly if you have any concern that may relate to your child's health.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Jason Baker
Principal

