

ST. PETER'S NEWSLETTER

2A Killeen Street, Sunshine South West:



15th May 2020

The last few weeks of flexible and remote learning have been challenging for everyone in education therefore I wanted to take this opportunity on behalf of the school and our teaching staff, to offer my thanks for the support you have provided during this transition. I have been inspired by the commitment and energy shown by parents and teachers in educating our students, and this is reflected in the innovative and creative ways we have come together to ensure continuity of education.

Returning to Onsite Learning

As you know our **Year Prep - Two** will return to school from **Tuesday May 26th**, and our **Year Three to Six** Children will return two weeks later on **Tuesday June 9th**. We have been instructed by the Minister of Education that we must enforce staggered drop off at pick up times. We will be asking Parents to drop their children off from their cars in the morning between 8.30am and 8.45am, so that children have time upon arrival to wash their hands and unpack their bags ready to begin their learning promptly at 8.50am. We ask that parents/carers do not come into school to drop their children off.

To pick up your children we will be introducing a three-time approach. We ask that families with surnames beginning from **A-H pick up their children at 2.55pm**, from **I-N pick up their children at 3.05pm** and from **P-Z collect their children promptly at 3.15pm**. Your children will not miss out on any learning between 2.55 and 3.15. Please ensure you arrive on time. This is a Government directive that we will be enforcing to support social distancing of adults. Parents wishing to wait for their children will be able to stand in the school car park at a social distancing space of 1.5m from any other adult. We ask you not to bring other school aged children or adults when collecting your child.

Fees

Firstly, thank you to the many families who have been coming in and paying their latest fee instalment and asking very valuable questions when they do. These include, why are we still paying fees when our children are involved in remote learning? Will I receive a refund if things like camps and swimming are cancelled? These are great questions and I appreciate them because if one family is asking, then probably many others have the same questions.

As to why we are still paying fees, I think most families would agree from the comments and feedback I have had via Twitter, email or in person, the teachers are still teaching and doing an incredible job. Many of them have had to teach themselves new skills to ensure we have been able to deliver a learning experience that has been valuable and beneficial for all St. Peter's students. This being said, teachers are working harder than ever and while

they may not be physically at school, they are still teaching. In addressing the second question, of course you will receive a refund if we do not end up having our outdoor education program or swimming program. I have already made the decision to cancel the Year 3/4 outdoor education program for 2020 and this money will come off your next account. So, I thank parents for their questions and please email me personally if you have any more that I can share with families.

Sadly, our costs are rising as we prepare to return. We have already spent money on online subscriptions that we had not budgeted for in 2020. We will need to increase cleaning upon our return. I can't begin to tell you how much money we have spent on hand sanitizer in preparation for our children to return. The school has remained open all of term and we still have our normal expenses, so believe me when I say, if I could reduce fees I would. The fallout of the cost of COVID-19 will remain with families for a long time, but this will also hit our bottom line and we do not make a profit, we cover our costs from year to year. So, to those families who are able to pay your fees this term I thank you and for families who need support I ask you to complete the application form. Towards the end of term when we have all of these in, I will sit down with Fr. Renee and our school accountant to provide as much support as I can to those in need. In the meantime, I thank you for your support and your encouragement for our teachers and your children.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Bergin

PRINCIPAL

MAY OUR CHILDREN FLOURISH

We have zero tolerance of child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and reported in line with our legal obligations, our moral obligations and our school policies. Creating child-safe environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by parishes, schools, families and communities. It is marked by collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches across policies, procedures and practices.



As a Catholic Community we respect the Wurrundjeri people, traditional custodians of the land upon which our school resides, and commit ourselves to reconciliation and justice for all in our community and nation.