

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I would firstly like to thank you for the feedback I have received to date in regards to the letter I sent home on Monday 16 March. Since then, a lot more information has passed across my desk, so I would like to share some key points to ensure you are kept well informed of our plans at school.

It is important to acknowledge that it is normal to feel worried or anxious about the current situation. If your children are worried, you can help them by providing reassurance. Advise them it is unlikely they will get sick, but if they do, they will go to the Doctor. According to reports, most children have mild symptoms and recover quickly. Also continue to remind them about good hand washing techniques, covering their mouth when coughing, sneezing in their elbow and general good hygiene techniques that will all minimise their chances of becoming unwell.

I would like to stress the importance of limiting your exposure to social media. Some of the information I have seen and heard from the community (and on social media) is not 100% accurate or substantiated. Yesterday morning all school leaders participated in a conference call and there were many examples of mis-information being circulated in the community. As a school, we are being guided through these exceptional circumstances by CEWA Inc and the Government of Western Australia Department of Health. The website for the WA Health Department is very detailed and up to date and can be accessed here https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus

At school, during the past two days we have been working on formulating a school plan to manage communication if there is a positive case reported in our school, as well as a plan to manage the possibility of a school closure. This will ensure we are prepared for *if and when* this may occur.

Although our students continue to learn as usual, we have also reviewed our schools Term 1 planner including all school events and activities that are part of our school's daily routine. Attached is an updated Term 1 planner to assist you with these changes. These changes apply to the end of Term Thursday 9 April after which we will review the situation again.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL

A reminder that ALL visitors to school (outside of parents dropping off and picking up their children at bell times) are to sign in at the school office. Although this is standard school practice, it is important we enforce this as we are required to ensure we have accurate records of people passing through our school during this time.

All non-essential visitors to school are being limited, including contractors and suppliers. In addition, could families please limit their time on the school grounds and only enter the school grounds when necessary.



A number of events, large group gatherings and other activities have been cancelled or postponed including many upcoming scheduled incursions. As a result of this and advice received, as at today's date, the following applies:

Focus Music – Yesterday afternoon we made the difficult to put Focus Music lessons on hold at this point in time. Focus Music will be contacting those students affected with more details.

Canteen & Uniform Shop - At this point in time, we have also decided to suspend the services offered by our Canteen and Uniform Shop effective immediately. Should you require Uniform items, orders can be placed online and the items will be sent home with your child.

Cottage Playgroup – Until further notice, the Cottage Playgroup held every Monday has been put on hold.

All Parent Meetings (*including IEPs, CAPs, end of term parent/teacher interviews, and 2021 3K and 4K interviews*) – We are currently working on a plan for these meetings and will send a note home with further details on how we will accommodate these.

Homework Club – Homework club after school will continue as planned.

Harmony Day Dress Day (Friday 27 March) – Students are invited to dress in orange as planned.

Assemblies – The advice is to not hold school gatherings of more than 100 students. We are investigating alternative ways to hold assemblies with students so we can continue this school tradition.

Choir – Will continue as planned.

Board Meeting – An email will be sent to Board members by the end of this week.

Lapathon – This will continue but the format will change. More details will be sent home closer to the date but we will run the Lapathon with small class groups as follows:

1. Kindy & Pre-Primary,
2. Years 1, 2 & 3, and
3. Years 4, 5 and 6.

Kindy Screening – Will continue as planned.

Occupational and Speech Therapy Services – At this stage, these services are running as normal. Affected parents will be contacted if required by their therapist.

The following activities have been cancelled or suspended until further notice:

Mazenod Tuesday Tutoring – Cancelled until further notice.

School Tours – Suspended until further notice.

Y6 Cricket (Friday 20 March) – Cancelled.



Sport Training (ie Basketball and Netball) and Use of School Facilities (Irish Dancing, Zumba etc) –

As these activities are run by groups and clubs external to Mary's Mount Primary School, you will need to contact your club or organisation for updated details from them.

I would like to once again thank you for your understanding and patience as we navigate this rapidly changing situation. Following this letter, I have compiled a list of the common questions we have received via the school office with further information that you may find useful.

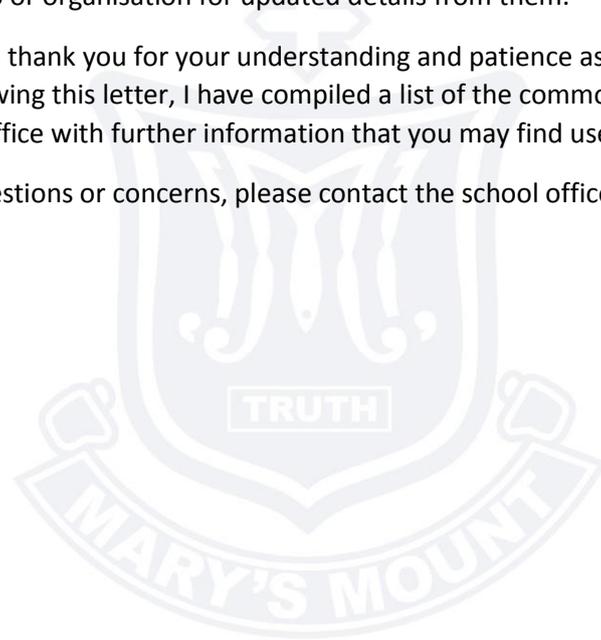
If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact the school office or your class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Sandro Coniglio

Principal

18 March 2020



1921-2021

100 Years

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Common Question and Answers – As at 18 March 2020

Over the past 48 hours, we have had many calls and emails to the school office. To assist with these common questions, I thought I would post a few here and the response to them.

Who is on the MMPS COVID-19 Committee and why wasn't an EOI made available? We have had to act fast and respond quickly in a changing environment that we have never experienced before. Time constraints meant we followed the guidelines from CEWA Inc and the committee was quickly formed. The committee have met several times to make administration decisions relating to MMPS and are also in constant contact. In addition, an extended staff meeting was held late yesterday afternoon with all available staff, to discuss school plans and gain staff input.

School COVID-19 Committee – Do you need someone with a medical background on the committee? We have been advised someone with a medical background is not required. The purpose of this committee is of an administrative nature in regards to how we manage students; communication, should there be a confirmed case from within our school community; and how we will manage a possible school closure including the ongoing delivery of education. In regards to medical advice, we are under guidance from the Government of Western Australian Department of Health and CEWA Inc.

Will the school be providing work for students should the school close? At that time we will let you know what you can do, how to access that information, and what the expectations are. We are also very mindful that each family's situation will be different at the time due to so many different variables. We are doing our best to make the plan flexible and adaptable.

Will students be allowed to take iPads home? What about students in Years 3 and 4? We are currently working with Teachers to formulate a plan to manage the possibility of a school closure for all enrolled students. Information will be year level appropriate and will be made available when, and if required. In regards to Years 3 to Year 6, these students will be able to use the existing iPads they already use in their own class.

What can we do at school for the vulnerable in our community? Although we have had a number of great suggestions and concern for those in need in local community, our immediate goals are focussed on addressing the health and well-being of our students, staff, and school community.

How will we know if any parents/families in our school community have isolated and are staying away from school or have tested positive? If any families have self-isolated, they are required to report this to the Principal at school so we can monitor these families/students and their situation. Unless we have a confirmed positive case, we are not required to communicate isolation notifications to our school community. Please trust that I will be in close communication with these families to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

What if I am high risk or my child is? We are aware of our students' health conditions and are constantly monitoring our students. If you have chosen to limit your exposure to others to help minimise your risk during this time, please consider using our kiss and drive facilities. If you need to discuss a matter with your child's teacher, please email them requesting a phone call.