



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The rapid evolution of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak continues to be a challenge for everyone in education.

I am aware that it has caused concerns for parents, staff and students.

Because the health and safety of school communities is our highest priority, the school's decision to stay open is based on advice from the Australian and Victorian Chief Medical Officers.

Currently, the advice of Dr Brett Sutton, Victorian Chief Health Officer, is that 'pre-emptive school closures are not likely to be proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time'.

When advice from the Chief Medical Officers changes, we will communicate those changes to our school community.

We continue to actively monitor developments and are working closely with the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV).

The CECV is partnering with the Victorian Department of Education and Training, and Victorian Department of Health and Human Services to ensure our practices reflect current advice and support the needs of our school community.

I am receiving regular updates from the CECV, and ensuring school leaders and staff are aware of coronavirus reporting and management practices, and are well-placed to respond as circumstances change.

The school's leaders and teaching staff are committed to ensuring that learning remains available to students as part of all students' entitlement to access the Victorian curriculum.

We have plans in place to support students to learn from home but, while we remain open, the emphasis will be on the learning and teaching currently in place in the classroom.

The methods our students will use to access this learning will be a school-based decision, and will vary according to need and context. We already have localised resources and ideas for supporting the students' learning from home.

Learning from home requires careful management and may not be available immediately.

Please contact the school directly to discuss educational continuity options.

Should you have any concerns relating to school operations, or the health and safety of students, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Jackie



Dear Parents,

We are currently refining our email messaging to parents.

Over the next few days you should receive a 'Welcome' email from "emmaus\_parents\_2020@emsydenham.catholic.edu.au.. You will **not** need to respond to this email.

If you do not receive this email by Monday please check your SPAM or JUNK folder first. If you have not received it, could you please call the office staff or email them at [secretary@emsydenham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:secretary@emsydenham.catholic.edu.au) and let them know.

If you have changed your email address could you let the office staff know as soon as possible please.

Over the coming days there will be regular updates on the school app and school website.

Thank you,

Jackie Byrne