



Emmaus Catholic Parish Primary School Sydenham

Emmaus Catholic Parish Primary School has a commitment to the care, safety and wellbeing of children.

Thursday, November 12

Dear Parents/Carers,

First of all a big 'Thank you' for your patience with the roadworks on Sydenham Road. Together as a community we have made this work. Please make sure you follow the parking signs on Pecks Road as council officers frequently patrol and fine cars parked illegally.

Congratulations to our Year Sixes who enjoyed their 'COVID' camp experience at school today. It wasn't the same as their normal camp experience but they had a great day nevertheless.

Thank you very much to the parents who have been very sensible, keeping their children home when they are unwell.

It is wonderful to hear that the 'ring of steel' is being lifted and we can now move freely around our state. I know many people in our community have not been able to see loved ones in regional areas for such a long time. It will be lovely to have family and friend catch ups.

There is much excitement about our numbers at the moment and it is wonderful to be venturing out to do things we haven't been able to do in a while. However, we must stay vigilant and continue to practise good hygiene when we are out and about and we will continue with our COVID safe practises at Emmaus. It was sobering to read about the COVID death toll in the papers on the weekend. Brimbank led the tally with 2026 cases and 101 deaths, followed by my area, Wyndham with 2265 cases and 73 deaths. It is a reminder to us that many of our neighbours will be missing someone at their Christmas table this year. We keep these families in our prayers. We have all missed out on some things throughout this time. Our students have missed out on excursions and incursions, playdates and parties. We have not been able to celebrate mass or attend weddings and funerals but we are now in November and we are all safe, healthy and able to enjoy each other.

We are very proud of the way our children have settled back into school after their extended break. We spent the first part of the term easing back into school life - focussing on wellbeing and reconnecting with our environment, friends and teachers. We are now focussing on the teaching and learning of literacy and maths as well as religion, performing arts and physical education. The Performing Arts lessons are adding to the skills required for our students to perform at the 'COVID' Christmas concert. We are also continuing to work on the goals set during our parent/teacher goal setting conversations which were held at the end of Term 3. Teachers are constantly teaching and evaluating student learning. The teachers will then write reports and there will be an option to meet with parents at the end of this term to discuss their child's progress.

In line with the Federation the term will conclude for students on December 11th at 3.00pm/3.10pm. The children were to finish on Tuesday, 15th December however we decided not to take a day for parent/teacher interviews as has been done previously so there would be less disruption for the students. We will hold these meetings after school via GoogleMeet. We would also normally take time to have a dress rehearsal for our Christmas concert at Sydenham CRC and we will not have to factor this practice in. Traditionally the children have been involved in moving the furniture to get the school ready for the following year. We have decided staff will do this on the student free days. This way we can keep teaching right up until Friday, 11th December. We understand this may be tricky for our working parents but the time between now and then will be devoted to teaching and learning.

The teaching staff will conclude their year on December, 17th. As a staff we are going to focus on sharing information about students and planning for 2021. We will also spend time organising the school for the student's return in 2021.

Next year, 2021, the students from Year 1 - 6 will begin their school year on Monday, 1st February. More information will follow about our Foundation 2021 students.

Take care and enjoy getting out and about,

Jackie