



Emmaus Catholic Parish Primary School Sydenham

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

Friday, April 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to every parent and carer for all you are doing to partner with us during these 'different' times. Partnership between parents, carers, families and schools is an important part of supporting students to succeed.

We have developed a model of flexible distance learning to suit our context at Emmaus. We have taken our children, parents and teachers into consideration when developing this new way of working during such extenuating times. We have decided as each family has different at home circumstances during this time we would like families to be devising flexible timetabling to suit your own children. We are very aware that you have your own structures and routines that suit your children and work for your family. Students are used to working through a 'daily schedule/timetable'. You may like to design it on the computer, draw it on a whiteboard or a piece of paper and put it on the fridge. Pictures often help students in P-2. Remember the learning does not need to be between the hours of 9am - 3pm.

This week's learning has been an opportunity to settle into learning at home. It has been a time to set up a learning space and organise a family timetable that suits your family. Please save any learning the children have done to show teachers when the children return to school.

This flexible distance model will be based on our ICT platform Hapara and will begin next week. This platform is currently used by our Year 5s and 6s and is being introduced from Foundation - Year 4. Our 5s and 6s are very confident using this platform. It can be used on a Personal Computer/MacBook or iPad/Android Device (Through a Safari/Chrome browser- not an app). Perhaps they will be able to support younger brothers and sisters. This Information and Communication Technology platform has been endorsed by the Catholic Education Office Melbourne. We have updated our Cybersafety, Email and Information and Communications Technology Policies and Procedures during this time. Our updated policies can be found on our website at the below links. It is very important that everyone remains safe while using technology. Your child's login details will be sent home today and each week the new learning will be uploaded on Monday morning between 8am and 9am. The children have a week to complete the learning - Monday to Sunday.

The teachers have placed many different learning and teaching opportunities on Hapara for your children. The learning sits alongside their Term 2 overview. Many of these activities are open ended and can be completed by children with varying abilities. Some teaching will be recorded and placed on Hapara for students to view when they are able. The children can watch these lessons as many times as they like. There is more than enough learning set on Hapara for all year levels next week. Please do not email teachers asking for more learning. They are busy planning their teaching and learning for the following week. Also, don't be limited by the learning set by the teachers. There is wonderful learning to be had outdoors, with Lego, and in the kitchen. There are also many wonderful websites to be explored. Museums and zoos around the world have opened themselves up to online learning. It is always worthwhile to follow your children's interests and passions.

The students who are learning at school will be completing the same learning as the children at home, supervised by teachers.

There will be continuing contact with all families. Teachers will be in contact with parents, carers and children. They may call, (remember it will be 'No Caller ID) or email to begin with. Then the teachers will be organising video conferencing calls (Google Meet chats) to talk to individual children. Children may use a laptop, tablet or phone for this communication. Please keep in mind that teachers have many students to communicate with.

Not all learning needs to be done on a computer. In fact we would not like any child spending all day on a computer. This way children can share devices. It would also be great if our Year 5 and 6 leaders could share their computers with their younger siblings. Today we are mailing home 'Home Learning' books for the children to place some of their learning in. We are also sending concrete materials home to our Prep children. Thank you to our wonderful Learning Support Officers who constructed these packs and delivered those today. Remember if you do not have computer/tablet access we will supply an offline pack.

Don't forget to use the privacy settings on all devices, supervise the children while they are on their screens and use devices where they can be seen.

Please use stationery you already have at home. E.g. grey leads pencil, pens, a ruler, an eraser, a sharpener, pencils, textas, crayons and paper.

The CECV recommends the following daily minimum guidelines for schools to follow:

- For students in Prep to Year 2, schools should provide learning programs that include the following:
 - literacy activities that take a total of about 45-60 minutes
 - numeracy activities of around 30-45 minutes
 - Additional learning areas, Religion, play based learning, physical activity of about 30 - 45 minutes.
- For students in Years 3 to 6, schools should provide learning programs allocated as follows:
 - literacy: 45-60 minutes
 - numeracy: 30-45 minutes
 - physical activities: 30 minutes
 - Additional curriculum areas: 90 minutes

Remember to provide plenty of outside time/movement time/brain breaks as they would have at school.

These are different times but let us be grateful for the time we have to spend with our children.

If you have any queries please contact me at principal@emsydenham.catholic.edu.au

Take care and keep safe,

Jackie Byrne
Principal

Note:

Parents and carers who require supervision of their child/children have now notified the school as to the days the children are required to be on site at school. If anything changes please contact Jenny or Maria at the office on 9390 4500. We need to roster our teachers to supervise the children and require exact numbers of children daily. The Survey Monkey regarding initial student attendance is now closed.

Link to Flexible Distance Learning Policies and Tutorials:

http://www.emsydenham.catholic.edu.au/learning-teaching/flexible_distance_learning/

Link to current correspondence from Emmaus:

<http://www.emsydenham.catholic.edu.au/news/latest-update-emmaus/>