



Emmaus Catholic Parish Primary School Sydenham

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

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you very much for your patience during these challenging times. We are endeavouring to do the best we can for our students and their families and our teachers who also have families to consider.

Yesterday afternoon, all Victorian Catholic schools were directed to transition to remote and flexible learning arrangements for Term 2. In order to slow the spread of coronavirus, it is recommended that all children who can learn at home **must** learn from home. Schools are able to make exceptions for children of parents who cannot work from home.

LEARNING AT EMMAUS - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Flexible Distance Learning - learning from home

- Flexible distance learning will look different in every home.
- Parents or carers are responsible for students' general safety at home or elsewhere.
- Not all learning needs to be completed on a computer or an ipad.
- The first week of learning is a home learning grid. Students have a variety of learning opportunities to choose and complete. They do not necessarily involve using ICT.
- These activities can be completed during any time of the day.
- The learning is flexible and does not need to be done during the hours of 9am - 3pm. The timing will depend on your family's availability, routines and structures.
- The home learning grid will be on the Emmaus website under the heading 'Flexible Distance Learning' as of Tuesday, 14th April.
- Any learning the students complete from this grid is to be collected and brought back to your child's teacher when we resume.
- The normal term overview that parents receive each term will also be on the website as of Tuesday, 14th April so parents and students can see what will be covered in Term 2.
- After the first week of learning, further learning will be using the Hapara platform. This is a platform our Year 5s and 6s currently use and all of our teachers have been trained in. The instructions for Years Foundation - 4 will follow next week.

- Students can use many electronic devices to access their learning. E.g a computer, tablet or phone etc.
- Some of the learning opportunities can be done independently by the student and some will require adult direction.
- In the coming weeks Emmaus staff will contact your family to discuss your child's learning. This may be on the phone, via email or video conferencing.
- Flexible distance learning will be a partnership between home and school. If you need to contact us, the Emmaus team will only be an email or a phone call away. From Week 2, you can email teachers directly or you can leave a message at the office and it will be forwarded to them. Teachers will respond to parents/carers between the hours of 8.30am and 4pm. If you have any questions in the meantime please email Jackie.
- The office will still be operational between the hours of 8.30am - 3.30pm. (Closed between 11pm-12pm and 2.00pm- 2.30pm)

Learning at School (For parents/carers who are essential workers)

- Students will attend school in their normal school uniform each day.
- The day will begin at 8.45am and conclude at 3pm or 3.15pm as usual.
- The school doors will open at 8.30am
- Students can either be dropped off at the front gate to walk into the school, walked to the door from the car park or in the 'Kiss and Drop' area of the car park.
- Parents will not be able to access the school yard in compliance with the social distancing requirements.
- The school office will still be operational between the hours of 8.30am - 3pm. (Closed between 11pm-12pm and 2.00pm- 2.30pm)
- The learning program delivered on site will be the same as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning.
- Students learning onsite will be supervised by an onsite teacher following the teaching and learning program provided by their classroom teacher.
- Your child will not necessarily be taught by their classroom teacher as teachers will be working on site on a rotational basis as recommended by CECV following the guidelines of physical distancing. Unwell staff members must stay home.
- Students will be placed in a multi-age classroom environment. E.g Different classroom year levels in the same classroom.
- Students will be able to play outside during breaks but will not be able to play on the playground or the oval.
- Students wanting to play with sports equipment will be required to bring it from home and play with it independently.
- Students who are unwell will be required to stay home from school.
- We will continue to practise social distancing in the classrooms and in the yard and will continue to practise good handwashing and cough-sneeze hygiene.

For both flexible distance learning and learning at school the CECV recommends following the daily minimum guidelines:

For students in Prep to Year 2:

- Literacy activities that take a total of about 45-60 minutes
- Numeracy activities of around 30-45 minutes
- Additional learning areas, play based learning and physical activity of about 30-45 minutes.

For students in Years 3 to 6:

- Literacy: 45-60 minutes
- Numeracy activities: 30-45 minutes
- Physical activities: 30 minutes
- Additional learning areas: 90 minutes

This is only a recommendation and will look different in every family. The 'at home school week' does not have to be Monday – Friday if this does not suit your family.

ICT

- Our Year 5s and 6s have a computer each.
- We understand that many families have more than one child so it may be possible to set up rosters (taking turns). e.g 1 hour for each child – youngest child goes first so they finish earliest in the day. Other activities can be done without ICT e.g. art, reading a book, physical education, play based learning etc.
- You might be able to borrow ICT from a family member not using it.
- If families do not have access to any ICT please contact us. We will send home learning packs for offline learning.
- We may also be able to loan out ICT on a rotational basis e.g. 2 days per week.

In order for us to consider our on site staffing and planning for the coming weeks, we are sending home a link to a survey today asking you to inform us whether your child/children will be learning from home or whether your child/children will be attending school. We **expect** every family to complete this survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T289VPN>

Further Information

You may have noticed on the Parish Newsletter that along with Confirmation, First Communions have also been postponed.

Once again I would like to thank you for your support and patience during this very difficult time. It is a time when we need to support each other where we can and spread kindness not fear throughout our community. I would like to sincerely thank the leadership team at Emmaus. Lorraine, Chiara, Carmela and Laura dedicated

time on their school holidays so we could work together to implement the changes recommended by the Victorian Government and CECV at short notice. I hope you all find the information you need in this letter. If you have any questions please email me at principal@emsydenham.catholic.edu.au.

I will continue to pray for you all over the Easter break.

Stay safe,

Jackie Byrne
Principal
Emmaus Catholic Parish Primary School
Sydenham

