



## **Emmaus Catholic Parish Primary School Sydenham**

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

Wednesday, 3rd June, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been such a blessing to have our Year Prep, 1 and 2 children return to school. We can see that they missed their teachers and friends. They have loved having the whole yard to play in but that time is coming to an end as we get ready to welcome the rest of our students back Emmaus. I know some very excited teachers who can't wait.

As you already know, the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) have advised that our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students will return to onsite schooling from **Tuesday, June 9th**.

### **All students are now expected to return to school as normal from Tuesday, 9th June.**

This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after this date, we can no longer support their flexible remote learning at home.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. A medical certificate will need to be supplied to the school. Please contact me so we can make an appropriate plan.

We know that as with the junior grades, some children will be really excited about coming back to school and we know that some students will be a little anxious. We will all be there to support the children. We also know that some parents will be excited about their children returning to school and some will be a little anxious. We will also be there to support you.

A lot of planning and organisation has gone into the student's return to school next week. We have needed to consider CRC Sydenham in our plans as well as our students, parents, carers and teachers. We know that our decisions will not suit everyone but they are necessary for the good of all. Our junior school parents have been very understanding and we have been very grateful for their support.

As we have already mentioned a new kind of normal will emerge from these times - things will be different. In this message to the community we will explain these changes so you know what is happening and you can begin to prepare your children for these changes. It is very important that we keep positive so the children feel they are supported during these times. We will spend a lot of time discussing these changes with the children so they know how things will work.

#### **Arrival at school**

Our school will open just before **8.30am each morning** with school beginning with a bell at **8.45am**. **The front gates** (including the gate to the carpark), **the Church gate** and the **Pecks Road gate** will open just before **8.30am**. This means you will not be able to drive into the school grounds to drop your children off prior to

**8.30am.** The sliding doors into the school grounds will not open until **8.30am.** (Remember, it is illegal to wait on Sydenham Road for the gates to open and we would not like any parents to receive a fine. The council has indicated they will be present to enforce these rules for the safety of all in the community.) Please note the area around our school and CRC Sydenham will be very busy at this time of the day and we are going to be required to be patient. CRC Sydenham begins at 9am.

If you require your children to attend school prior to 8.30am they will be required to attend Before School Care in our Hall with our providers, Blue Fit. As recently announced by the Federal Government, all childcare services will be free until the end of term 2. As a result, anyone that uses the BlueFit Kids service from June 9th through to the end of term 2, will not be charged any fees during this time.

There will be many teachers on duty to support you and your children. When the children arrive at school they will be required to have their temperature taken. If their temperature is higher than **38 degrees** they will be required to go home. If your child is presenting as unwell before school you are required to keep them at home. When the children walk into school they will go straight to their classroom to get ready for the day. The children will use hand sanitiser as they walk into the classroom.

**Parents and carers are not permitted on the school site at this time.**

### **Personal Hygiene**

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent handwashing/hand sanitising.

During the day children will use hand sanitiser as they leave and enter the classroom. Hand sanitiser will be in every classroom. Children may bring their own hand sanitiser if you wish. We will be slowing our day down so the children are not rushed and have plenty of time to do this properly when they need to. Children will be encouraged to wash their hands throughout the day as well. We have placed posters in the toilets to remind children to wash their hands properly.

Children will be asked to bring their own drink bottles to school instead of drinking from the drinking fountains. The children will be able to fill their drink bottle up at the drink taps or from the sink in the classrooms.

### **Playtimes**

Children may bring something to play with during playtimes. If they choose to do this they will be responsible for it and it would be best if this was not valuable or treasured. We will provide balls, hoops, coloured chalk etc for the children to play with. The monkey bar, slide playground will not be able to be used at this stage.

### **Daily Timetable**

**The daily timetable will look different.**

**Even though lunch and snack times have changed, students may eat either their snack first or their lunch first. We are encouraging students to listen to their bodies and eat accordingly.**

#### **Daily schedule**

##### **Session 1**

8.30 - Organisation

8.45-10.45 - Instructional time

10.45-11.15 - Recess

11.15-11.30 - Eat snack

##### **Session 2**

11.30-12.30 - Instructional time

12.30-1.10 - Lunch recess

1.10-1.30 - Eat lunch

### **Session 3**

1.30 - 3.00 - Instructional time

## **Dismissal**

**Every school day will conclude at 3pm.**

There will be 6 pick up areas.

**Parents are not permitted in the school grounds so we will bring the children to the pick up areas.**

1. If your surname begins with A-J you can pick your child/children up from the **school car park**.
2. If your surname begins with A-J you can pick your child/children up from the **Emmaus front gate**.
3. If your surname begins with K-Z you can pick your child/children up from the **church gate**.

Or you may pick your children up from the:

4. **Pecks Road Gate** - For those parents who prefer this, we will walk the group to the gate.
5. **The Back Shed car park** - For those parents who prefer this, we will walk the group to the back of the school.
6. **After School Care** - For those children booked in.
7. Do they **ride a bike**?
8. Do they **walk home independently**?

**The teachers from Year 3-6 will send an email home on Thursday asking how you will be picking up your children. This is only for Years 3-6. We already know how our Preps - 2 are getting home. If you change your mind could you please let your child's teacher know.**

**If someone else is picking up your child, please let the child know and let the school know. We can not let a child go with another parent unless we know this is happening.**

**Please reply to the email indicating where you will pick the child/children up from.**

Parents will be asked to stay in their cars until just before 3pm.

Parents will need to walk to their collection points and when the bell rings teachers will let the children walk to their parents.

It will take some time and we will all have to be patient.

If a child is still waiting for a parent after 15 minutes we will take them to After School Care where they will be cared for by our After School Care provider - Bluefit.

The new parking strip at Pecks Road has been very popular. You are able to park your car and stay there until the children are brought to the gate by a teacher. The teacher will dismiss the children from the gate.

### **OUT OF HOURS SCHOOL CARE (OHSC)**

To drop off or pick up the children from Before and After School Care parents will be required to park out the front of the school.

The entry and exit door for Before and After School Care has needed to change. We will be using the gate directly to the right of the main gate which runs in front of the hall to a side door. One of the Blue Fit staff members will meet you and your child at the gate when you ring the bell. Your child will also be brought to you at the gate.

We know there are many changes to take into consideration to ensure the safety of our children and their teachers. All schools will be doing things differently but this is how we think it will work at Emmaus. Like we have said before, we will monitor the effectiveness of these changes and adjust them accordingly. Please be patient as we find the best way forward.

#### **Things to note:**

If your child is unwell you must keep them at home.

Physical Education will still be on the same day as it was in Term 1. Full sports uniforms can be worn on those days.

**Full winter school uniform is required this term.** This means boys are required to wear long pants and not shorts. Girls may also wear pants.

PWS, our school uniform supplier is now open for winter uniform supplies.

If you have any questions please ask.

You can call the school on 9390 4500 or email me on [principal@emsydenham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@emsydenham.catholic.edu.au)

Take care and stay safe,

Jackie