



Emmaus Catholic Parish Primary School Sydenham

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

Tuesday, May 19

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for continuing to partner with us throughout these unusual times. Teaching is deeply relational so we are really looking forward to our students returning to school. We understand there is some community trepidation towards children returning to school but we will all work together to ensure each other's safety.

I apologise for the length of this letter but there are many things we need to share so we can transition back to school safely and calmly.

As you already know, the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) have advised that schools can begin a phased return to onsite schooling.

In the **first stage**, students in **Foundation, Grade 1 and Grade 2** will return to school from **Tuesday 26 May**.

In the **second stage** of our return to onsite schooling, all other year levels will return to school from **Tuesday 9 June**.

For those students in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of onsite schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from **Tuesday 26 May to Friday, 5th June**. Students will be supervised by teachers at school using the same online teaching as their peers. This is not the same as working one on one with a parent at home. Please call us to let us know if your Years 3-6 children need to be at school so we can organise our supervision rosters.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to onsite schooling, 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.

Monday 25th May is a student free day for all year levels which means there will **NOT** be any set online learning or supervised onsite learning for that day. Google Meets will also not occur on that day. Teachers will be meeting, planning and getting organised for the student's return.

We know that some children will be really excited about coming back to school and we know that some students will be a little anxious and some won't want to come back because their older brothers and sisters aren't returning just yet. 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. Thank you for your patience as we have sorted this through. 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.

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 at **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 at **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.) 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 May 26th, 2020 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.

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.

As we are all prone to putting pens or pencils in our mouths at times, each child will have their own pencils to use. These will be placed in a snap lock bag with their names on them.

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 day will look different.

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 -2.30 - Instructional time

2.30- 3.00 - Instructional time

Dismissal

The school day will conclude at 3pm.

The classroom teacher will bring each class out onto the asphalt in the middle of the school. Teachers will then collect the children and take them to their collection point to meet their parents e.g. Pecks Road, After School Care, Back Shed Pick Up. Teachers will then walk the rest of the class to a specific area to be picked up.

We will have six collection points. They will be:

1. The carpark - Surnames beginning with A-J
2. The front gate - Surnames beginning with A-J
3. The church gate - Surnames beginning with K-Z
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.

There is a new parking strip at Pecks Road. Brimbank Council informed us you can park there if you stay in your car. When the children come to the gate you can get out of your car to collect the children.

The teachers will send an email home asking how you will be picking up your children. If you are choosing to pick your children up from the back shed or Pecks Road could you please let us know so we can organise our duty rosters. We will know by your surname whether your child needs to be at the Church gate or the front gate. Of course some children will be riding their bikes and some children will be walking home. Could you please let your child's teacher know if this is the case.

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 parents are not there to pick up their children by 3.15pm we will take them to After School Care where they will be cared for by our After School Care provider - Bluefit.

OUT OF HOURS SCHOOL CARE (OHSC)

Before and After School Care will be operational for Foundation - Year 2 from Tuesday 26th May. It will also be open for children from Years 3-6 if parents have to go back to work and the children are being supervised onsite.

To drop off or pick up the children from Before and After School Care parents will need 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 at the door. Your child will also be picked up via this door.

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.

School Fees

TERM 2 SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW OVERDUE.

School fees are **essential** to our existence. Our school fees are one of the lowest in our area, and we endeavour to keep them as affordable as possible. We are aware of hardships being experienced across our community during these times. We are here for parents who do not qualify for the health care card discount but who are experiencing financial difficulties during this time. Arrangements can be made with Jackie Byrne, the Principal of Emmaus. We appreciate how difficult it is for parents to come forward with financial concerns but we will ensure each case is handled with care and discretion. It is not acceptable to just not pay your school fees, if it is difficult for you at the moment you must communicate this with Jackie.

Things to note:

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

The Sacrament of Confirmation has been postponed until further notice.

The Sacrament of First Eucharist ceremonies have been postponed until further notice.

We are still waiting for school photos to arrive and when they do we will send them home.

Year Six bomber jackets will be distributed to the students on their first day back at school, Tuesday 9 June, they will not be available before this date.

PWS, our school uniform supplier will be open from Wednesday 20th May 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

Take care and stay safe,

Jackie

Monday 25th May - Student free day - no online learning or onsite supervised learning

In the **first stage**, students in **Foundation, Grade 1 and Grade 2** will return to school from Tuesday 26 May.

In the **second stage** of our return to onsite schooling, all other year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9 June.

Physical Education will be on the same days as normal. Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 will need to wear their sports uniform on Tuesday, 26th May.

Visual Arts and **Italian** will remain the same as Term 1.