



Emmaus Catholic Parish Primary School Sydenham

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

July 15, 2020

Dear Families,

Here we go again!

I apologise, but again this will be a long letter so I can give you all the information you require. You may need a cuppa, glass of wine or a beer to get through this!

As you will have heard, flexible remote learning will begin again on Monday July 20th.

While this is not ideal for many of us it is good to know our children are safe and tucked away in their own homes with the people they love. We are all required to do our bit for the good of the whole community. Let's hope this latest lockdown will be over soon. Let us act for the good of all, we are all in this together.

We were very grateful to the 83 families who took the time to complete the survey we sent home last term giving us feedback for us to consider and reimagine our way forward. I am also very grateful for the parents who have made direct contact with me either by phone call or email. I have always said my door is open (even if that is virtually) as I believe open communication is best. It is impossible for us to take on all suggestions but we will consider what is best for our students at Emmaus as a whole. As I have explained before, not everything will suit every individual but we are here to do our best for the common good of all of the children.

All students are required to stay at home for flexible remote learning if they can. If you are an essential worker and are required to go to work, our school is open and your children can be booked into our supervised learning program.

Onsite learning for Children of Essential workers, vulnerable children and children with a disability

The learning program delivered on site will be the same as the learning program delivered to students undertaking remote learning. As I am sure you can understand we will have more children at school than you do at home. Our teachers and learning support team do their very best to support the children during this learning. Of course this can not be the same supervision that can be offered at home. Students learning onsite will be supervised by school staff but will not necessarily be their classroom teacher.

These students will have temperature checks and will be using hand sanitiser throughout the day.

Please do not send students to school if they are unwell. Staff who are unwell are also reminded not to come to work.

The school learning day will be from 9am - 3pm. The school gates will be open in the morning at 9am for children to arrive and will be open just before 3 in the afternoon for the

children to be collected. Parking will be available at the front of the school. If children are not picked up at this time they will go to after school care. This will be at a cost to you. Of course we understand if parents/carers are running late unexpectedly on occasions. Please call the office to let us know and we will support your child until you arrive.

Before and after school care will be available during this time through our provider Blue Fit Kids. If you require this service you will need to book in through Blue Fit Kids. Before school care is from 7am - 8.45 and 3.00pm - 6pm.

Children will be required to wear full winter uniform when they are at school. They will also need a coat, their lunch/snack and a drink bottle of water please.

If your child requires medication could you please make sure it is given to the office.

During this term, children with a disability and those children identified by the school as vulnerable may come to school.

If you would like your child to attend school as you are unable to work from home, your child has a disability or are vulnerable, could you please email secretary@emsydenham.catholic.edu.au so we can organise our timetables and staffing.

Teachers will be on site each day, and will respond to phone calls and emails between the hours of 8.30am and 5pm. You may phone the school and leave a message and the teachers will get back to you or email them. They will reply as soon as they can.

The flexible remote learning platform we are using is as it was last time - flexible. It is designed to fit in with your family and your commitments. We understand every family is different. Last time some families chose to complete home learning in the afternoons, some in the mornings and some on the weekends. It is completely up to you. All children are expected to complete literacy, numeracy and additional learning areas as best you can. This does not mean you have to complete everything. Some weeks you may and other weeks you may not. We understand that some days are easier than others and all children are different. **Please just do what suits your family each week.**

Remote Learning through Hapara and Google Meet

Teachers will be monitoring attendance via Google Meets and through the use of the **HAPARA** platform. It is expected that all students will participate in flexible remote learning. We will contact parents if we can see that students are not participating.

Emmaus staff will be providing instructional videos to assist your child's learning. These can be watched at any time and as many times as required.

Google Meet conference calls will occur each day of the week except Wednesdays.

There will be a Google Meet conference call on -

Monday and Thursday afternoons and

Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Classroom teachers will send home exact times for each year level. All children are expected to participate in a classroom Google Meet conference call at least twice a week.

Google Meets conference calls form part of our wellbeing program. Everybody needs to connect with other people in order to feel and develop emotions. These needs are just as legitimate as the need for food and sleep. It is a wonderful time to connect with classmates and their classroom teacher.

For our flexible remote learning we will use **HAPARA**, the same platform as we used in Term 2.

Teachers will publish the learning to **HAPARA** between 3pm and 5pm Sunday evenings. I am very grateful to teachers who schedule this into their weekends.

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, wellbeing, Religion, play based learning, inquiry, art, Italian, 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 wellbeing, Religion, inquiry, art, Italian, physical activity: 90 minutes

Offline Packs

Offline packs will also be available from the school if you have limited access to a computer. This pack has the same learning as **HAPARA**, it is just off line. If you would like an offline pack please email Lorraine, at lorraine.morrison@emsydenham.catholic.edu.au and she will organise it for you.

Home Learning Books

If you need a new 'Home Learning' book for your child to complete their home learning in, could you please send an email to your child's classroom teacher and we will get them ready for you to pick up at Emmaus from Monday. Please park at the front of the school, ring the bell and someone will bring it to you. Some people indicated they did not need another one, this is fine also.

Prep and Year 1 books will be available to be picked up at school from Monday 20th July.

Additional curriculum areas.

Religion is a very important aspect of our teaching and learning at Emmaus. We have a curriculum set by Catholic Education Melbourne that we are mandated to teach being a Catholic school. Teachers have planned a religion lesson for each week.

This term the Art team have planned a unit of work on 'Drawing'. As was the case last term, we do not expect families to go and buy art materials. Last term our specialist art teachers asked students to use recycled materials and paper. This term we will be providing a small pack of white and coloured paper for each child to use for the drawing unit. This pack can also be picked up from school if you would like it. Again it is not compulsory. It can be picked up from the front of the school.

Our Physical Education team has also planned lessons for each week. This is to get your children moving and not on screen the whole time. We hope the children enjoy these activities.

The focus this term in Italian is oral language. Mrs Toderello has planned some wonderful activities. Who knows, many of our parents might learn Italian too.

We will also include some well-being lessons alongside our Physical Education lessons and Google Meets.

We also acknowledge how important 'play' is for the development of oral language for our Prep, 1's and 2's. Please encourage them to play.

Technology Issues

If you are having difficulty logging into your child's Hapara account or Gmail please email laura.chamberlain@emsydenham.catholic.edu.au

Thank you for taking the time to read through this long letter. If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to contact the school or email me at principal@emsydenham.catholic.edu.au.

Good luck with the flexible remote learning. I know some families found flexible remote learning challenging with all the demands of life, If you are finding it difficult to manage please call me.

Above all else, please stay safe and keep well. We look forward to the day when our community can all be back at school together.

Take care,

Jackie