



# *St Munchin's Catholic School*

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24 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

In line with the latest advice from Commonwealth and WA governments, St Munchin's is planning to remain open to provide the best possible education to your children. Following the Prime Minister's and the WA Minister for Education's advice, parents may choose to keep their children at home during this unprecedented time.

State and territory Premiers and Chief Ministers have committed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee advice that says that **it is safe to keep schools open**.

In considering the potential risks associated with COVID-19, our school has been working with Catholic Education Western Australia in conjunction with the WA Department of Health and the Department of Education throughout the evolution of COVID-19 to ensure we have the best possible preparedness and response strategies in place.

We are working hard to ensure our teaching and learning continuity plan supports students to engage in remote learning should our school be required to close. Those students who are not attending school because parents have chosen not to send them, will be able to engage with their learning by completing work-at-home resources which will soon be available for collection. Teachers are currently planning and collating comprehensive and meaningful learning packages for each of their students. These work packs will sit alongside the online learning plans that will commence should there be a need. Teachers will message you when these are available with instructions about how and where these packages can be collected.

Please be assured that while the school remains open, social distancing will be enforced and cleaning regimes will continue to be completed to the highest possible standards to mitigate risks associated with the spread of the COVID-19 virus. I ask that you also have conversations with your child about the importance of these measures.

At St Munchin's we have also initiated changes to the drop off and collection procedures within the school. We ask that no parents enter the classrooms or corridors attached to the classrooms. Collection and drop off of students will take place at the external doors. This change is reflected on posters throughout the school and will help us maintain social distancing parameters as set by the Health Department. The school office is open and operating as normal. However, if the office looks busy and more than two people are waiting in the office, please wait outside until someone else leaves.

In acknowledging the far-reaching impact of COVID-19 for families in our school community, I also assure parents that we remain determined that no family seeking a Catholic education for their child be denied the opportunity due to financial difficulty. Catholic Education Western Australia is addressing potential concerns relating to fees and affordability that may arise as a result of COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a changing situation that is affecting many areas of our lives, and it is normal for all of us to feel anxious and worried, your child included.

Our teachers and other school staff are doing a wonderful job in providing pastoral support to students at this challenging time. It is important to remember that as parents, you can help your child process all the information they are receiving and the changes that are taking place around COVID-19. You can stay informed and provide factual, age appropriate information about COVID-19 that will help your child feel informed and empowered, rather than afraid.

Everyone in the community has a part to play in helping control the spread of COVID-19. If your child is feeling unwell in any way, please keep them at home. We will continue to follow the latest advice of the Department of Health. I will keep you informed about any changes for our school as updates become available.

Thank you for your support at this time, and as a Catholic community I encourage all of you to pray for those coordinating our response in Australia, and for all of those in Australia and abroad affected by COVID-19.

As always, I ask that you contact me directly if you have any concern that may relate to your child.

Yours sincerely

Joe Musitano  
Acting Principal