



St Munchin's Catholic School

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Although school closure has been the subject of heated discussion for many weeks now, it may still come as slightly unnerving to hear these words spoken in our community. I have a strong sense that the best interests of our community have been addressed and are continuing to be analysed as the experts in the health fields use all the information on hand to shape their decisions. I also have a strong faith in the compassion and call to service within the St Munchin's community during this stressful time, and have already experienced the generosity in spirit and action within our staff and our parents.

Following today's announcement from the Western Australian Premier and Minister for Education, **parents and carers are strongly urged to keep their children at home from next Monday.**

I understand that this will present a difficulty to some families, especially to those parents who are involved in the provision of essential services. Please be aware that St Munchin's will remain open and be able to supervise these students until Thursday the 9th April.

If you do work in the capacity of essential services and intend to send your children to school after the 30th March, it is essential that you inform me directly by emailing admin@stmunchins.wa.edu.au by the end of the day tomorrow.

Over the last few weeks, the staff at St Munchin's have been working tirelessly to prepare for the move to online learning. This will commence next Monday 30th March and conclude on Friday April 3rd. In preparation for this event, all teachers have compiled take-home work-packs for each student, and these will contain work that can be completed over the next two weeks. These will be mostly independent activities requiring very little assistance from those at home.

These packs will need to be collected from the school tomorrow, and in order to do so in a manner that reflects the social distancing requirements and health and safety of all of us I do need you to follow the following guidelines.

- **All packs will be collected from your child's classrooms tomorrow 27th March and you must access these rooms from the external doors.**
- One adult only will be permitted in the classroom at a time, so please only enter the room after the previous person has left. Please do not bring children you have been keeping at home with you as we still are required to meet government distancing expectations.
- Until it is your turn to enter, please line up outside, spacing yourselves appropriately.
- Two time slots will be allowed for the collection of the packs and will be allocated as follows
 - 8:00-8:30 am. Year Two, Year Three, Year Five
 - 3:10-3:40 pm. Year One, Year Four, Year Six

Pre-Primary and Kindy teachers have made arrangements for their packs

- These procedures will be repeated as required over the coming months

Once online learning commences, it will look different in every year level and will change as the weeks progress and as we adapt to the needs of our students and the capabilities of the home learning environment. The differences will include the variety of teaching programmes and devices used, methods of communicating and times of immediate contact and response with teachers. All teachers will be continuing to work extremely hard to facilitate the online learning structures and resources for your students. Parents and carers will be given access to contact their child's teacher throughout this period, however I ask that the times of contact, whether through email, Dojo or Seesaw, remain between the hours of 9am to 3:30pm.

This is a difficult time for all in Western Australia and it is normal that your children may be feeling anxious or worried. Catholic Education Western Australia remains focused on the care and wellbeing of all students, staff and families and as a Catholic community, I encourage you to pray for the health of all in our communities, especially those who are more vulnerable.

Yours sincerely

Joe Musitano
Acting Principal