



St Columba's School Bayswater

32 Roberts Street
BAYSWATER WA 6053
PO Box 61
BAYSWATER WA 6933
Tel: 08 9208 2700
admin@stcolsbays.wa.edu.au
www.stcolsbays.wa.edu.au

Grow in Faith Seek Wisdom Live in Peace

28 April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

TERM 2 LATEST NEWS

Welcome back to Term 2! Thank you to everyone for their support over the holiday break. Special thanks to staff who have continued to stay connected with the ever changing nature of how Term 2 may look, and to all our families for your understanding. There has been confusion, but out of confusion, we do see clarity on the other side. It just takes time and increased communication to allow us to work through this. Either way, we are back, whether at home or at school, we are back together, back connected. So for this we are extremely grateful. I reinforce that gentleness by all, for all, is imperative and an expectation of each of us here at St Columba's School. It is what we stand for, and when there are times of uncertainty, we either stay true to our motto and values or we can make the choice to lose sight of them. I say, hold true, hold strong and care deeply for each other. Cut each other some slack when plans do not quite work out how we may wish. It will all be okay in the end, and if it is not okay, then it is not the end. Heard that in a movie once.

Start of Term 2 Date

As you will be aware, from previous correspondence, St Columba's School students commence Term 2 on Wednesday 29 April. We are looking forward to embracing the remote learning platform and continuing to engage all our students in their learning, whether this be at school or at home. Above all, our focus is the wellbeing of our community. You, our families, parents and kids, and our staff. The learning will happen.

Taking the Daily Attendance

The three scenarios below will be outlined for Student Attendance:

If your child is working from home remotely for the full five days per week:

- Teachers will post a morning Seesaw message onto the student journals by 9.00 am each day. Please ensure that you or your child responds to this message by commenting on their journal by 9.45 am. They can message 'I am here for learning today and the date', or their own personal message. This will serve as our attendance record during this time of remote learning and is a legal requirement.

If your child is attending school for the full five days per week:

- Students will be marked as attending by their classroom teacher. If the student is absent from school, we will need the parent to follow usual procedures through the school website to record the student is absent.

If your child is attending school part-time and at home part-time:

- **When at home**, teachers will post a morning Seesaw message onto the student journals by 9.00 am each day. Please ensure that you or your child responds to this message by commenting on their journal by 9.45 am. They can message 'I am here for learning today and the date', or their own personal message. This will serve as our attendance record during this time of remote learning and is a legal requirement.
- **When at school**, students will be marked off as attending by their classroom teacher. If the student is absent from school, when they were planning to be at school, if sick, the parent to follow usual procedures through the school website to record the student is absent.

Other Information regarding delivery:

Priority:

If attending St Columba's School and you collected a work pack or work books at the end of last term, please make sure these return with your child on the day they are attending.

Drink Bottles

Water fountains will only be used for filling drink bottles. The fountains will be thoroughly cleaned each morning. Please ensure your children have a **drink bottle** at school. If you forget, do not stress, we have some cups, but we will stop kids drinking directly from the fountains.

Canteen

NO CHISHOLM CANTEEN and No St Columba's Snack Canteen this week. This continues from the end of last term. We will update families as we are updated on COVID-19 protocols.

No Entry to the school Grounds CEWA Directive

- Parents and caregivers are not permitted on school property. Please drop off or pick up your children from Kiss and Drive options or car park bays. Parents must not exit their vehicle.
- Parents walking children to school, must leave their children at the gate at either Milne or Roberts Streets.
- If parents need to collect students during the day – please call the administration (they will sign children in and out) and we will arrange for your child to be at the school office, where they will be directed to you at the front gate. Please do not come onto the school site.
- Only those visitors who are delivering essential supplies are to be permitted on school properties.
- We will do our very best with social distancing during these drop-off and pick-up times. Thank you for your understanding.

The Before School Plan: These areas will be supervised from 8.15 am to 8.40 am morning.

- There will be two Kiss and Drive Drop-Off Zones. Milne Street [new] and Roberts Street
- Year 4, 5 and 6 parents are to use the Milne Street Kiss and Drive. This is new and will be located in the set of bays closest to the ramp. Staff will be supervising this area. This area will be clearly marked to assist parents with the traffic flow.
- PK to Year 3 parents will use the Roberts Street Kiss and Drive. This will also be supervised and PK, K and PP children walked to their classrooms.
- If parents use the car park bays to park and drop students off, please be aware you are not to exit your car. These are guidelines set by CEWA that must be followed.

- PK and K parents who decide to park, please note we will have staff to assist in taking your children to class from the Roberts Street main gate near the administration. We will see how this goes as it is problematic in itself.

The After School Pick-Up:

- The two Kiss and Drives will be set up as a repeat of the morning. We will stagger the end of day for students during the afternoon.
- Pre-K at 11.15 am and Kindergarten will remain at 2.45 pm will be brought to the front gate.
- Pre-Primary to Year 6 will move to Kiss and Drive areas at 2.50 pm.
- We appreciate this is a new procedure, so we ask for patience in seeing how this all works. Please feel free to delay collecting students from K & D till around 3.05-3.15 pm as this will spread the traffic congestion.
- Depending on numbers, we will see how we manage the PK, K and PPs as this may be a direct delivery to your car if you are parked. We will stay in touch regarding this.

When using Kiss and Drive drop or collect your children based on your youngest child. For example, you have a Year 3 and a Year 5 child, please drop at the Roberts Street K and D.

No use of the OSHC Gate except by the parents of essential workers using the OSHC.

School Fee Update from Catholic Education WA:

There has recently been public and media attention regarding fees in Catholic schools and a suggestion that parents should receive discounts. I would respectfully like to make the following points:

1. Parents have been guaranteed that their child's place at St Columba's School Bayswater is guaranteed regardless of a parent's financial situation. I have already provided you with information regarding fee relief and information about the Health Care Card discount scheme. I encourage you to contact Peta Santella [Financer Officer] via email peta.santella@cewa.edu.au if you have any concerns regarding school fees. This remains confidential.
2. Our school is in the process of refunding/crediting you the cost of any events or activities that you have been charged for and which are now not occurring.
3. All members of our wonderful staff have continued to work very hard to support your child's education. You will understand that they have continued to be paid for their work. We rely on your school fees to assist us in meeting this significant ongoing financial obligation.
4. Please be assured that our annual fees and charges are set at the lowest possible level to balance our yearly budget. All Catholic schools are not-for-profit, which means that if there are any surplus funds left at the end of any year, they are automatically used to offset future fee increases and/or fund future improvements for our students, including equipment and facilities.

Cleaning Procedures:

- We will be increasing our cleaning processes during the school day. This will include a focus on high traffic areas, and school playgrounds.

With blessings your way and an abundance of good things:



Art Lombardi
Principal