



St Columba's School Bayswater

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Grow in Faith Seek Wisdom Live in Peace

29 January 2021

Welcome Back & Coronavirus (COVID-19) - UPDATE

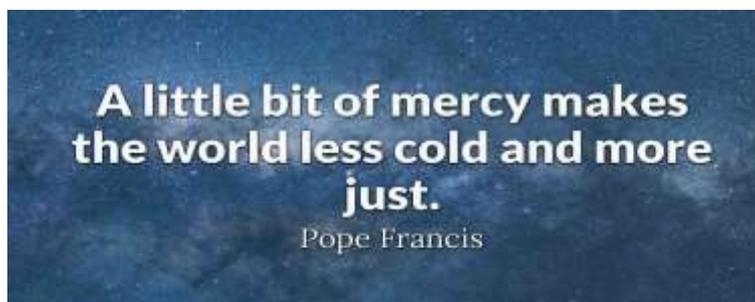
Dear Parents and Caregivers

Hope you are all enjoying the final week of the holidays. With COVID-19 on the school agenda, we have protocols back in place for the beginning of the year. I thank you in advance for your understanding and support of what needs to be in place and the changes to be made away from our regular routines.

In the 2020 school year, we provided opportunities for parents to be involved in the school community. With COVID-19 restrictions remaining in place, we have previously articulated key protocols and these will remain for 2021 until restrictions are lifted.

In 2021, parents and grandparents are welcomed onto school grounds, but must adhere to social distancing. This is a priority and responsibility of members in our school community.

Before getting into the nuts and bolts, please note our school value focus for 2021 is Mercy. Pope Francis says it all in these few words:



Key points to note:

COVID-19 – 'SAFE HANDS, SAFE SCHOOLS' CAMPAIGN

- While we are grateful that WA has largely avoided the disruption and devastating effects of COVID-19 that other States and countries have suffered, the start of the 2021 school year will be an important time to re-establish COVID-safe vigilance at our school. To this end, CEWA has developed the 'Safe Hands, Safe Schools' campaign to assist schools across our system to promote COVID-safe hygiene messages that will help us to play our part in keeping Catholic schools open and safe for all.
- CEWA is lending a hand to the COVID-19 fight with the 'Safe Hands, Safe Schools' initiative, reminding staff, students and the school community about the importance of clean, hygienic hands for the safety of schools with the 5-point visual motif of a young child's handprint. The motif can be used as a visual tool to promote the over-arching message of having 'Safe Hands, Safe Schools'. [Safe Hands, Safe Schools Campaign](#)

Book Lists/Bulk Orders

- All bulk orders from Year 1 to Year 6 will be delivered directly to school. These will be used within the classrooms throughout the year.
- If you have misplaced the information regarding payments of the Booklists, please contact Lisa in the front office. Lisa's email is lisa.slocum@cewa.edu.au.
- Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Pre-Primary material levies will be sent out to parents in the first few weeks of the year.

Parent Information Evenings

- Parent evenings will be rescheduled for Week 2. Pre-Primary to Year 6 meetings will now be held on Wednesday 10 January.
- There will be two sessions (teacher presentations). Session 1 from 6.00 pm and a repeat Session 2 from 6.30 pm. These will be held in your child's classroom.
- We request only one parent attend the session. This will assist in reducing the number of people in each classroom.
- We will need to monitor the number of parents attending a session to ensure we remain within guidelines for social distancing.
- Teachers will send a message through Seesaw welcoming you to the new school year and Information Booklets will be out next Friday 5 February.
- If you have more than two children in PP-6, please note teachers will be available to catch-up with you if needed over the first few weeks of school.

Parents Entering Classrooms: Protocols

- Parents are permitted to enter the classrooms at the commencement of the school day, however due to COVID-19 restrictions based around social distancing, we strongly encourage parents to say their goodbyes at the door and allow students to enter the classrooms on their own. If parents choose to enter classrooms, teachers will monitor the number of people in the classrooms and parents may have to wait outside until numbers decrease (parents leave). Please don't be offended if you're asked to wait outside for we're only following the restrictions put in place by the government.
- Our students are our priority. Staff will work with parents and students to ensure they feel safe within the school environment;
- We acknowledge our younger children will transition differently to our older children. Gentleness and patience is the key, as whatever our children's needs are on the day, they will be met. We are confident with parents and children dropping in yesterday and today, anxiety levels will decrease significantly and the children will feel comfortable entering classrooms on the first day back next week. The children were resilient last year and 2021 will be no different;
- Parents with children in the ECE classes (Pre-Kindy, Kindy, Pre-Primary and Year 1) will obviously want to settle their children before departing. The above protocols will apply to the ECE classes and we request only one parent per family enter the classrooms.

We appreciate the excitement around the first few mornings hence we need to be respectful and gentle on each other and our children. As we know, our St Col's children are our number one priority.

Assemblies

- Assemblies will continue as per the 2020 school year. Year levels will present assembly items together.
- Parents and grandparents attending assemblies will be restricted to those of children presenting items and those receiving Merit Certificates.
- Parents will be notified by classroom teachers if their child is receiving a Merit Certificate.
- Social distancing will be required by parents and grandparents attending assemblies.
- Thank you in anticipation for your support of these protocols.

Drop-Off in Kiss and Drive Before and After School

- Two drop-off and pick-up areas, Roberts Street and Milne Street, are in place for 2021, as established in 2020. Milne Street operates from 8.15 am – 8.30 am in the mornings, while Roberts Street operates from 8.15 am – 8.40 am. Pick-up times at both areas are from 2.55 pm – 3.15 pm.
- Pre-Kindy and Kindergarten children must be dropped off and collected. No Kiss and Drive. This is for student safety and management.
- Pre-Primary students will be dropped off and collected from their classrooms during Week 1. Pre-Primary teachers will assess routines during the first week and inform parents of when their students will be able to commence the Kiss and Drive.
- All students from Year 1 to Year 6 can use Kiss and Drive if they wish.
- Year 1 to Year 3 use the Roberts Street Kiss and Drive. Year 3 to 6 can use Milne Street. Year 3s have the option to use either K and D.
- Older children with siblings in Year 1 or 2, use the Roberts Street K and D.
- A tip for after school pick-up: Arrive around 3.10 pm and traffic delays are alleviated to some degree. Traffic around schools during peak times before and after school are a natural part of the day. I wish to thank parents in advance for your patience and courtesy.
- If you have any questions regarding K and D, please speak with your classroom teachers and they will explain how the K and D works and where kids need to be.

SCHOOL PARKING – City of Bayswater Update

There are very clear directives regarding the responsibilities of all of us in relation to parking around schools, but also in the interactions we have with City Officers and their roles.

- Please maintain respect for City officers, as they are completing their work under the direction of the City in maintaining the safety for all, especially our children.
- One of the directives from the City is for officers to take photographic evidence of offending vehicles to ensure accurate administration of infringements.
- As a school community, we continue to set ourselves the highest of standards in regard to the wellbeing of all. We have a school Code of Conduct that we adhere to, and something as our Principal, I am proud to say we do at exceptional levels.

Start of Year Mass on Friday 5 February at 9.00 am

- Presentation of Leadership Positions for Year 6 Students.
- Year 5 and 6 classes will attend, along with Year 6 parents only who wish to attend.
- These restrictions are in place to meet COVID-19 requirements.

As with the start of every year, transitioning our children is our focus. Please remain in communication with your classroom teachers if you have any concerns. Enjoy the start of the year with your children, and we look forward to settling into the rhythm of the school life and the abundance of blessings we receive here at St Columba's School in Bayswater.

An abundance of goodness your way



Art Lombardi
Principal