



# 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

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5 February 2021

## **Welcome Back & Coronavirus (COVID-19) - LATEST UPDATE**

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Hope you are all going okay after the lockdown during this last week. A special welcome to all our new families for 2021. Our families will make you feel very much at home. With COVID-19 high on the school agenda, we have protocols back in place for next week and are extremely excited to have our school back open on Monday 8 February. This letter is pretty much a replica of the letter sent out last Friday 29 January. 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.

We appreciate this last week may have heightened levels of anxiety in returning to school life. There is always a time of transition for all of us at the start of the year, especially for our students as they move into a new classroom environment. We understand this and remain focussed on the wellbeing of our students, parents and staff. It is all part of the experience after a break away from routine. It may take a few days to settle back in. Remember this is all okay.

In 2021, parents and grandparents are welcome onto school grounds, but must adhere to social distancing. There is a four square metre rule now in place, not the previous two square metre rule. This is a priority and responsibility of members in our school community. If you are on the school site, **adults must be wearing a mask**. Children are not required to wear masks. If you are on the school site and are not wearing a mask, you will be asked to leave. Please understand this is a government requirement. We encourage parents and grandparents to consider the time spent on the school site over this first week back.

### **Important Information for Pre Kindy and Kindergarten Transition**

Monday 8 February is Week 1 of the school year. All transition programs for Pre-Kindy and Kindergarten remains in place as of the Week 1 schedule.

### **SAFE WA App**

Scanning in with the SAFE WA app and the QR Code – At the moment we have not had a mandate regarding the use of the App in schools. We assume if we hold an official on-site event, then we may be required to establish a routine for checking in through the SAFE WA App. Some information will come out from Jess Scott, our OSHC Lead Supervisor, regarding OSHC specific guidelines.

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

- 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](#)

### **Parent Information Evenings**

- Parent evenings will be postponed until further notice.
- Teachers will remain in communication through Seesaw welcoming you to the new school year and Information Booklets will be out at some point next week.
- Pre-Kindy Seesaw will be established during the upcoming week. All PK correspondence will be via email.

### **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. Our 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.
- There will be a rescheduling of the term planner for assemblies as all events planned for Week 1 are now on hold. Information will be forwarded once decisions are made.
- Parents and grandparents attending assemblies will be restricted to those of children presenting items and those receiving Merit Certificates.
- Parents will be notified via SEQTA/SMS 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**

- This Mass will be rescheduled once we have met with Fr Andrew, ensuring we are meeting protocols. There is a four square metre rule and limited capacity.
- We will keep our Year 6 parents informed of when the Mass will be rescheduled.

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