

18 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I do hope that you and your families are well during this challenging and rapidly-evolving time. The decisions we are making are being done in a world of uncertainty, where recommendations and expectations are literally changing by the hour. Today, the Prime Minister announced following advice from Australia's health advisors that schools will continue to remain open.

Below is an update on procedures following the recent Coronavirus (COVID-19) alert. These procedures are in line with the Government, Health Department and Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta guidelines. As much as possible the teaching and learning will continue and it is important that we maintain a sense of calm for our students during these uncertain times.

St Patrick's will be communicating to parents in 3 ways

- Skoolbag - main form of communication (all letters, alerts and information will be sent through this app). All families are strongly encouraged to have this app on at least one parents phone.
- Facebook - brief information will be posted alerting families to either Skoolbag and or the school website.
- School website - www.stpatsguildford.catholic.edu.au - notes and class information will be posted on the school site.

The following measures will take place until further notice.

- St Patrick's remains open and we have had NO reported cases of Coronavirus to date. If any diagnosed cases are reported, you will be notified immediately.
- All parent information meetings and forums are cancelled, including parent helpers in the classrooms.
- Whole school assemblies including masses, liturgies and penance have been cancelled.
- Our students are currently separated into designated play areas and two recesses and lunches each day.
- All excursions will be postponed.
- Students will continue to be reminded of the urgency in washing hands correctly using soap provided, throughout the day.
- If your child has a cough, aches, pains and a fever, they are not to attend school until they have been cleared by a doctor. If anyone in your household has had the Coronavirus, your child is not to attend school for a period of 14 days, and then be cleared by a doctor.
- If your child attends school and becomes ill, we will contact parents and it will be important for you to pick them up immediately as they will be isolated in our sick bay.
- As parents arrive at school for drop off, it is important that you leave as soon as possible. Parents are requested not to remain on school site for an extended period of time.
- In the afternoon, cones will be placed in front of the hall entrance and parents/guardians are requested NOT to pass these cones. School staff will direct children to go to their parents/guardians.
- All upcoming gala days and diocesan sporting events have been cancelled.

Attendance

Our advice at this stage is that if parents choose to have their child remain at home, the roll is to be marked as "unjustified absence". If the reason is supported by an existing medical condition, then the roll will be marked as 'justified absence'. No student work will be sent home for students whereby it is deemed "unjustified absence".

Parent Helpers

Until further notice, Parent Helpers in classrooms will not commence.

Learning from Home

Staff are currently in the process of investigating ways in which teaching and learning might continue if students are required to stay at home. More information about this will be forthcoming if the need arises.

Important Health Information

The three most important things we can all do that really make a difference are:

- Wash our hands regularly and thoroughly
- Sneeze into our elbow or a tissue, disposing of the tissue straight away and then washing our hands
- Keep our children at home if they are unwell or show signs of being unwell.

Thank you for your anticipated support and understanding as we continue to work together for the safety and wellbeing of our community.

Yours sincerely

Steven Jones
Principal