

St Francis



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Journey as Family in Peace through Love

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The COVID-19 situation in our state is moving rapidly and we are working our hardest to keep up-to-date with what is happening.

If our students need to learn from home, we will continue to communicate with parents and carers, and provide purposeful, challenging, interesting learning activities either in hardcopy or through digital/online formats. Teachers are currently preparing work for this situation.

- We value the vital role families always play in their child's education but particularly during this difficult time. With support and encouragement from home, and regular communication from teachers, children will be able to engage in a variety of rich and meaningful learning experiences.
- If we need to learn from home, schools will provide a variety of learning resources across several learning areas that can be accessed and completed at home. Resources will be updated regularly by class teachers who will also communicate (via email, Seesaw, Google Classroom, Google Hangout Meet, Zoom, or phone) to ensure continuity of learning.
- If you do not have access to the internet at home, your child will not be disadvantaged. Non-digital, off-line materials including worksheets and textbooks containing digital worksheets and teachers will stay in contact through phone calls.
- Learning can take place in many ways. Cooking, designing and making, creating games, talking with family, and writing letters are all ways of learning valuable skills.
- We are fully aware that the nature of the current health crisis means that there may be times when children are unable to complete tasks or in fact family members may be unable to assist their child with their schooling. Parents and carers must prioritise the health of their family and we understand that there may be times when school work is not completed. In the same way, teachers must prioritise their own health and that of their families. Everyone will need to be patient and know that together, we are doing the best we can in trying circumstances.



- Acknowledge that being away from school can be challenging and that children will often miss interacting with their peers. Families are encouraged to explore safe ways children can communicate with their friends (including the time-honoured art of writing letters).

This situation is new for everyone. We will be trying to make things as good as possible, and we welcome your feedback. Thanks for working with us to make this situation work.



Learning from Home Advice for parents

We all want every young person to do their very best and to keep learning

CREATE A LEARNING CULTURE IN YOUR HOME

- Your role as parent/carer is a very powerful one – you have already taught your child to walk and talk! Trust and nurture your child's innate ability to think, problem-solve and learn.
- Things will not necessarily go to plan – this is the time to turn a challenge into an opportunity.
- Children will model their behaviour on your lead, so be kind to yourself and others.

LEARNING at HOME

- The learning space should be tidy, comfortable and quiet, in a family area not a bedroom
- Encourage your child to persevere with challenging tasks; give them confidence to work independently and to have a go at every task.
- Provide feedback on effort and attitude.



WELLBEING

- Create positive family experiences; listen to your child's concerns but do not fixate on disaster
- Exercise together, try some relaxation activities together, play board games together
- Have clear strategies for sibling rivalry and conflict resolution
- Contact your child's teacher if you need specific advice.

LEARNING TIME

- Use resources provided by your teachers, not ideas from Facebook or Pinterest
- Set up a timetable of the family routine with lunch breaks, activity time, academic time. Let your child see that you need time to work on tasks too.
- Use everyday tasks such as cooking and cleaning as a learning opportunity.

BE HEALTHY

- Routines and clear expectations are important for mental and physical health
- Continue a healthy diet, regular exercise and daily prayer
- Take turns to run half an hour of exercise twice a day – even kids can do this!
- Regular sleep is important.

ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

- As the grown-ups, we are responsible for promoting good behavior so encourage children to be polite, respectful and courteous in their language online
- Negotiate your child's screen time: limits are important
- Regularly check the internet sites and conversations your children are accessing: use the e-Safety website for guidelines on how to limit access to sites.

FOCUS ON GOOD RELATIONSHIPS

- Encourage your child (and self) to keep in contact with their friends – plan a celebration once face to face is possible again
- Keep in touch with teachers: they want to support your child's learning progress and want to work in collaboration with you.
- Contact the Principal if you have concerns; they want to help you.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs Kathleen Watt

Principal