



Wednesday 3 February 2021

Dear Parents

I hope that all families are managing to stay safe and happy during this lockdown period. There may be families within our school community who may be affected by the bushfires we are currently experiencing and so we pray to the Lord for all those affected.

*Look upon your children with mercy and hear our prayer for those whose lives and possessions have been lost or are threatened by fire.*

*We pray for those who have suffered great loss; loss of loved ones, pets and stock; loss of homes, possessions and a lifetime of memories. Comfort them in their hour of need. Enable them to find shelter and restore to them what nature has taken away from them.*

*Heal the broken-hearted and turn this tragedy around so that out of the ashes the victims may find selfless love and goodness in their fellow man and woman. Give them the strength that they will need to stand fast in the days, weeks, months and years ahead.*

*Comfort all who mourn in this sunburnt land of red dust plains and bush. Lord also protect those who fight the fires and those who care for them.*

*Guide and bless your people and in your mercy restore your creation and heal our land that we may enjoy the fruits of the earth and give you thanks with grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Saint Florian, Patron Saint of Fire pray for us all in Australia.*

The staff returned to school at the end of last week and were so looking forward to meeting their new classes for the year. I can appreciate that we had many disappointed children who were also looking forward to returning to school to meet their new teacher and to see their friends again after a long summer break. Our Pre-Kindy and Kindy children would have been extra keen too after many weeks of preparation to ready themselves for starting school for the first time, as well as our new students and families to PCPS. However, we hope to make you all very welcome next week.

Providing the lockdown does end at 6pm on Friday 5 February, students will return to school on Monday 8 February and teachers will send a link to their recorded parent-teacher session on 12 February. PCPS was very well prepared to deliver remote learning last year and successfully met the challenge presented. We are confident that we can continue to support our children and families should this be required once again next week or in the future.

Some children may be distressed by the COVID lockdown however there are many support structures available to help. The World Health Organization has developed a flyer on [Helping children cope with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak](#) and [Raising](#)



*Inspiring hearts and minds*

**PADBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

O'Leary Road, Padbury WA 6025

(08) 9404 4000 | [admin@padcath.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@padcath.wa.edu.au) | [www.padcath.wa.edu.au](http://www.padcath.wa.edu.au)



[Children](#) and [Emerging Minds](#) websites also have information. The [Smiling Mind app](#) has daily meditations and mindfulness exercises for children and the [Head to Health website](#) offers digital mental health resources, including apps, that may assist be helpful. This can be accessed [here](#). Encourage your children to manage their stress levels by using positive self-talk, exercise, healthy eating, connection with their friends and finding ways to enjoy themselves. Good tips for us adults too! If you require some pastoral support at this time, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Ali Fisher our Social Worker at [admin@padcath.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@padcath.wa.edu.au).

I have another Principal briefing this Friday 5 February with CEWA and we will be updated and advised of any changes to the lockdown conditions or length of time. I will provide more information about school arrangements beyond Friday to parents after this briefing. All information will be sent to families via SEQTA however our school website has a dedicated **COVID Update section on the Homepage** and all communication sent to families will also be posted there - <https://www.padcath.wa.edu.au>

We have been fortunate in Perth to have escaped much of what the eastern states and the rest of the world are going through with COVID, so 5 days of lockdown, whilst inconvenient, is nothing in comparison. We remain hopeful that people in the community at large are following all the regulations and that we will emerge from this lockdown period at the end of the week.

Thank you all for your patience and support. We look forward to a successful and happy 2021 at PCPS.

Kind regards

Margaret Williamson  
**Principal**



*Inspiring hearts and minds*

**PADBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

O'Leary Road, Padbury WA 6025

(08) 9404 4000 | [admin@padcath.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@padcath.wa.edu.au) | [www.padcath.wa.edu.au](http://www.padcath.wa.edu.au)