



Friday 5 February 2021

Dear Parents

The staff at PCPS are excited to be welcoming our students back to start the school year on Monday 8 February! Premier Mark McGowan made the announcement last night that the hard lockdown in the Perth, Peel and South West regions will be lifted at 6.00pm today, Friday 5 February. However, some restrictions will continue to apply until at least 12:01 am 14 February. Information about the Government's announcement is available on the wa.gov.au site. The latest health information is available through WA Health Department.

The most important aspect of the continuing restrictions will be a requirement for all staff members to wear a mask unless they are providing teaching or instructions to students. There is no requirement for students from Pre-Kindy to Year 6 to wear a mask, however they may choose to if they wish. **Parents, visitors etc who come on to the school site must wear a face mask and adhere to the two-square metre and 1.5m distancing rule.** Parents are asked to be particularly mindful of this especially before and after school.

Classrooms will open on day one at 8.20am with lessons commencing at 8.45am. As restrictions are still in place, we are unable to have parents enter the classrooms and safely adhere to the two-square metre and 1.5m distancing rule due to the size of the classrooms. The teachers and support staff will therefore greet and welcome parents and children outside the classrooms for the first couple of weeks, providing an opportunity for you to introduce yourself to the teacher.

Parents are most welcome to make a time to meet on an individual basis regarding their child at any time during Term 1 however we would like to provide advance notice that all classroom teachers will be holding parent-teacher meetings in week 7-9 for all students. Details on bookings will come later in the term.

If some of our very young children become upset on the first day back, parents are more than welcome to stay with their child outside the classroom/in the play area. We know this may be difficult as it is their first day of school, however, please be assured, our staff will be doing everything we can to ensure your child is settled and feels safe, secure, and happy throughout the day.

To assist with the drop-off of stationery, there will be a table outside the PK-2 classrooms for parents or children to place their items on to. Please just leave it there and the staff will organise it throughout the day. Yr3-6 children are much more independent and will be able to bring their own booklist items into the classroom and sort these out, with staff on hand to assist if required.

I am sure that some children are coming back with mixed emotions, some keen and eager to start the year and see their friends again and other children may naturally be a little nervous after having spent time away from school and with the recent lockdown. Please be reassured that the staff are organised and ready to welcome your children back to PCPS and will help your children settle back into the school routine.



Inspiring hearts and minds

PADBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

O'Leary Road, Padbury WA 6025

(08) 9404 4000 | admin@padcath.wa.edu.au | www.padcath.wa.edu.au



Our Social Worker, Mrs Ali Fisher, will be going into some of the classrooms on Monday and Tuesday to meet the children and will be on hand to assist class teachers.

As previously mentioned, due to COVID, our Parent-Teacher Information Session this year will be electronic (no meeting on the school site). A link will be sent to parents on Friday 12 February for you to access the Leadership Team welcome and year levels sessions. The teacher session will contain detailed information about your child's learning for the year and procedures and protocols etc. Parents will be able to listen to the recording in their own time. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and teachers will collate these and provide answers in the following week.

Please note that the Pre-Kindy and Kindergarten Parent Information sessions were held at the end of 2020 so no pre-recorded sessions will go home for these two year levels however please see/email Mrs Finlay and Mrs Carter should you have any further queries regarding Pre-Kindy or Kindy.

Father Cyprian will celebrate our Welcome Mass with the children at school during the week (not at night in the church due to COVID and related church restrictions). Whole school/class masses/liturgies will continue to be celebrated in our Prayer Room or hall, as we did last year, with the children only while restrictions are in place.

As mentioned in my previous correspondence, Assemblies will continue this year in a slightly different format. There will be two types of assemblies. Merit assemblies will be held with all the classes from PP-Yr6 in attendance only. Photos of your child receiving their award will continue to be sent home for parents. Prayer and Item Assemblies will be held in the hall and the class presenting will have their Buddy Class in attendance and streamed to the other classes. Parents of the presenting class only will be able to attend with the 2metre square and 1.5m rule applying.

Please continue to read our school newsletters each fortnight and remember to check the PCPS Community Calendar for 2021 meetings, events etc. during the year.

Lockdown Week at school (1-5 February) **will be considered as Week 1** and next week **(8-12 February) will be Week 2**. This is to ensure that all school event dates, the school calendar and associated considerations can continue as normal. This means that for the **Kindy class cycles, next week (8-12 Feb) will be Week 2**.

Please note that on **Wed 10 February a Sacramental Parent Evening** was to be held at the church for all parents whose children are receiving sacraments this year. This has been **postponed**. Due to school only commencing next week, Father Cyprian has looked to change the date. This date will be confirmed as soon possible, and parents will be notified.

Year Six camp will go ahead next week as per the advice of Government and Catholic Education WA and with COVID regulations in place.

On the **PCPS website you will find a dedicated COVID page** with all correspondence emailed to parents. On this page you will also find a Pastoral Care Letter from the Archbishop of Perth regarding COVID and the bushfires. There is also a letter from PCPS Social Worker Ali Fisher with some great information on talking to your child about lockdown and mask wearing.



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I appreciate that parents and students may have many questions about the new arrangements and assure you that I will continue to provide information about the requirements as soon it becomes available from CEWA. If your child is particularly anxious about starting school, please contact us through the admin email and we will let your class teacher know.

As I mentioned in my previous correspondence, we are all aware of the devastating bushfires that continue to burn in the north-eastern suburbs. As we prepare for the return of PCPS staff and families, it is important to be cognisant of the potential impact these fires may have had for members of our school communities. We need to be mindful that there are likely to be families and staff who have been impacted by damage to the family home/property; live in the areas affected by bushfire and evacuated or saw the fires closeup; have relatives and friends who have been injured or have lost property; have previously been in a bushfire (which may evoke distressing feelings and thoughts); and/or experience increased feelings of vulnerability or anxiety regarding bushfire risk.

The following bushfire resources on our school website, under the Community/COVID tab, may be helpful for families:

- Preparing Children for the Threat of Bushfires
- Helping Children who have been affected by bushfires
- Recovering from Bushfires

Please reach out to us via the admin@padcath.wa.edu.au email if you have been affected by the bushfires.

Our school staff will continue to work closely with you to ensure that all children can be welcomed back to school on Monday, 8 February in a safe manner. Your child's health and well-being remains our first priority. I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Kind regards

Margaret Williamson
Principal



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