



30 January 2022

Dear Parents

Welcome to the 2022 school year and a special welcome is extended to all new families, staff and students to our school community. I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday, enjoying our beautiful summer weather (and heat wave!) and spending time with family and friends.

At the outset of the 2022 school year, it is important that we reflect upon and are grateful for the ease of restrictions we enjoyed last year in Perth. This year we face Omicron with much of the same restrictions plus a few extra. We will continue to work together and support one another within our school community, with gratitude, kindness and resilience as we navigate through this new year and the challenges it may bring.

Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) continues to work closely with the Department of Education and health authorities to monitor COVID. **Please see the letter from CEWA Executive Director Debra Sayce (on our website - <https://www.padcath.wa.edu.au/covid-updates>) and read carefully as it outlines important information including school environments, vaccination requirements and proof, volunteering, school attendance etc for our schools.**

To enable a smooth and safe transition into the new school year there have been a number of things we have put into place where PCPS students, parents and members of staff can gather safely.

School commences this coming Monday 31 January, with classrooms opening at 8.20am (just for the first day back) and classes commencing at 8.45am. To alleviate congestion in the classrooms, K-Yr1 will have tables set up outside their classrooms for you and/or your child to place their booklist items on. Staff will then assist your child with their booklist items later in the morning. Yr3-6 children are very 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.

As part of the Phase 5 School Operations Guidelines, the **1.5 social distancing rule continues to apply** to parents and visitors in schools and I ask that parents remember this when on the school grounds. You are welcome to pop into the classrooms (with masks on) for a brief period eg 5 minutes and then move outside on to the verandas to enable other parents to enter the classroom. **There will be a limit of ten adult visitors at a time in the classrooms.** PK-K have their outdoor grassed areas as well where parents can gather.

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. 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. 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.

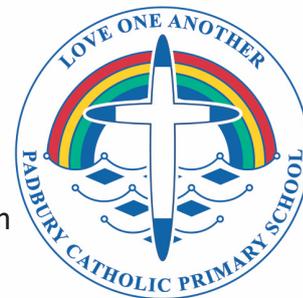


Inspiring hearts and minds

PADBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

O'Leary Road, Padbury WA 6025

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



We had such positive feedback from parents about our **electronic Parent-Teacher sessions** that we emailed out last year (no meeting on the school site), so we are going to continue these this year. The Leadership Team and classroom teachers will be pre-recording information and **sending home a link to parents on Friday 4 February**. The teacher session will contain detailed information about your child's learning for the year and procedures and protocols etc. Parents will then 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. Please note that the Pre-Kindy and Kindergarten Parent Information sessions were held at the end of 2021 so no pre-recorded sessions will go home for these two year levels however please see/email Mrs Finlay or Mrs Wood should you have any further queries regarding Pre-Kindy or Kindy.

Staff will be welcoming students and parents back and you will have an opportunity to introduce yourself to the teacher in the first week or two. 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 advanced 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.

At this point in time assemblies, masses and liturgies will continue and parents and family members are most welcome to join us with seating socially distanced. However please note that scheduled events may be modified or cancelled based upon health advice at the time. Father Cyprian will celebrate our **Welcome Mass** with the children at school on **Tuesday 1 February at 9am** in our school hall. Parents are welcome. Please scan in at the sliding doors at the hall for all events in the hall.

All adults including **parents, visitors and staff must wear a mask when indoors**. **If social distancing is not possible outdoors, then the mask ruling requires you to wear a mask** eg if there is crowding around outside of classrooms during drop off/pick up times. Staff are not required to wear masks when teaching, issuing instructions etc to the students.

If parents, carers or visitors are entering any school buildings (apart from dropping off in mornings/picking up in the afternoon), then they must sign in at the front office (as has always been the procedure) and must now sign in using the **SafeWA app or ServiceWA app** in the front office as well.

Please read the proof of **vaccination requirements** as outlined in the CEWA Executive Director's letter. All PCPS school staff have been double dose vaccinated and will receive a third dose within one month of becoming eligible. Regular visitors and relief staff will also be required to provide documentation that they have been double/triple dose vaccinated.

Parents/carers are not required to be vaccinated when:

- dropping off or picking up their child from school
- volunteering at school on an ad hoc basis (which means attendance at no more than one education facility no more than once per week)
- attending an event such as an assembly or parent teacher interview
- entering the school after hours



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Parents/carers are required to provide vaccination evidence or exemption when:

- volunteering at the school/s more than once a week
- working in an unpaid capacity at the school/s more than once a week

If parents are unsure of signing in requirements, proof of vaccination requirements etc, please see Mrs Ellen at the front office and she can assist you.

Our school is committed to adhering to the advice of the Chief Health Officer in ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of all within our community. We continue with our **enhanced cleaning and hygiene practices throughout the school**. Hand sanitising stations are positioned around the school. Parents, visitors etc. to the school, and/or entering the classrooms, are asked to use the hand sanitisers. Students will be reminded to wash and sanitise their hands at key points during the day.

An external company (endorsed by CEWA) is in the process of undertaking a ventilation audit of all catholic schools. Air purifiers will be installed if required. Ventilation will also be maximised in the classrooms/learning areas by opening windows, doors and using fans and air conditioners. It is important to note that both natural and mechanical ventilation methods may be utilised in our school along with the critical strategies of staff vaccinations, the wearing of masks, enhanced cleaning and ongoing expectations of high levels of hygiene. Each measure is being used to keep our students and staff safe.

Students who are unwell should stay home. Given the current situation, students at school who display any symptoms of illness will be sent to the office and sent home. Parents are asked to seek medical advice if their child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 and are to notify the school if they have undergone testing. Normal processes for advising the school of a child's absence will apply for any parent who keeps their unwell child home.

Learning contingency plans are in place for remote learning, if required, which may include hardcopy learning packages and/or access to online learning resources. Regular teaching staff are able to be utilised in different areas of the school to temporarily replace teachers and other school staff who are required to isolate due to COVID-19 and the school maintains a pool of relief teachers to be deployed if required.

We have a **COVID section on our website** should you need to refer to any COVID information - <https://www.padcath.wa.edu.au/covid-updates>. If there are any updates from CEWA regarding COVID and further procedures and protocols, I will update parents via email/seqta as soon as possible. Please continue to read our school newsletters each fortnight and remember to check the PCPS Community Calendar for 2022 meetings, events etc. during the year.

We are committed to ensuring PCPS is a COVID-19 safe space and I thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our students, staff members and school community safe.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Kind regards
Mrs Margaret Williamson
Principal



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