



ST. JAMES' SCHOOL

Newsletter

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20th March 2020

IF EVER THERE WAS A NEWSLETTER TO READ FROM FRONT TO BACK THIS IS THE ONE!

Dear Parents and Carers,

St James School is operating as normal at this stage. We are preparing for the event of a possible closure due to COVID -19 some time in the future, if directed by the Federal Government.

This week the staff have been aligning practices in the current classroom context to a remote learning environment. This means that the stage programs are being taught using a blended presentation of digital and hard copies.

Stage 2 has joined Stage 3 using Google classroom for most of their content delivery. We will continue this practice into the future to reinforce skills developed and user confidence.

Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 have continued in a non-digital space, but have introduced extra apps and website access which would support learning if we were required to change to an online delivery.

This as you can appreciate presents many challenges. As such, we have spoken with all students to determine the capacity of families to interact in an online environment eg do you have internet? what is the connection like ?and do you have access to a device? (tablet/ipad/laptop). If you wish to discuss this please contact me. From this information we have developed our Learning Continuity Plan. Teachers are planning for the future while teaching their usual program and refining their use of digital platforms at the same time. For this I thank them all.

We appreciate your support in allowing us the opportunity to do this properly and not a hurried "bits & pieces" response. Given that a Federal closure is possible at some point, I ask that you consider preparing a learning space for your child. If possible please provide the opportunity for online learning such as the internet and a device.

Cheers

Ann

Attendance - Self isolation

This is a case by case basis. We have yet to have many families do this. Please note attendance will be marked as accepted if someone had the virus, had been in contact with the virus, returned from overseas, works in the medical field or has a compromised health status and need to stay home to avoid contracting the virus. All other reasons are marked as unaccepted leave.

Change in Afternoon Travel Arrangements

As you will appreciate we are following all directives regarding keeping our children and staff safe in this learning environment.

One of the lovely things about St James is that parents gather and chat of an afternoon and build community.

Unfortunately, we need to increase the site security and we are moving forward to begin restricting access to the school site.

All entry will now be through the Kiss and Drop area for morning arrival and afternoon departure. Please kiss and drop and stay in your vehicle.

Buses will still run, but as of Monday all children will need to sanitise their hands upon arrival and before departing.

This will be provided and supervised.

PARENT PICKUP as of Monday, 23rd March

All parent access will be through the Kiss n Drop area. When picking up students after school we have put in place the following **pick up times** to alleviate traffic congestion in the afternoons-

Single student from ES1 or S1- 2:45pm

Single student from S2 or S3- 3:00pm

Families of more than 1 student -3:10pm

ONLY children in the above time slots will be available to be collected as the children will remain in their classrooms until called.

Please do not come in another time slot as you will be asked to "go around again." I know this will be frustrating but our plan is to keep our school operational.

We are happy for parents to pick up from 3:10 pm to 3:40pm if these times ABOVE do not suit.

(If you are opting for the late group please let the office know so that we keep your children safe)

Be mindful of your social distancing when picking students up and thank you for your support in this matter.

ANY EARLY DEPARTURES—please ring ahead so that we can arrange to bring your child to Kiss and Drop.

To keep in touch in this ever changing environment the following processes are in place.

Urgent – Schoolworx -text service, school landline and mobile phone and school email-
yamp@lism.catholic.edu.au

General Notices – Skoolbag

Classroom- Seesaw, Google Suite of apps. In the event of possible school closure, all families will need both the seesaw family app and class app.

Friday 3rd April—School Cross Country— no spectators

Thursday 9th April—Last Day of Term 1, 2020

Tuesday 28th April—First Day of Term 2, 2020



Cross Country

Our school cross country will go ahead on Friday 3rd April without spectators. Please send in a change of clothes and fresh socks.

Cleaning

Cleaning hours have been increased before school, during breaks and after school. All desks are washed while the children are eating, all hard surfaces and door handles are disinfected and outside seats where the children eat are being disinfected before use.

Good hygiene practices have been mandated where students wash hands before and after eating. Social distancing has been enforced where possible.

Sport

All sports from a Zone, Diocesan and Polding level have been cancelled for Term 1 and most likely Term 2.

NO Masses

There will be no Saturday/Sunday Masses celebrated in the Lismore Diocese, until further notice. Thus the Sunday obligation for our faithful has been suspended.

Easter Liturgy, Assemblies & Catholic Schools Week have been cancelled until further notice.

NAPLAN Information for Parents

NAPLAN On-line Practice Tests are scheduled for Monday, 23rd March at St James' School for Years 3 and 5 students.

Sacramental Program

The Sacramental program has been postponed until further notice.

Easter Raffle

The Easter raffle will go ahead at this stage. If the need arises we will bring the drawing of the raffle forward, so please continue to donate easter eggs/rabbits etc and sell as many tickets as possible.

Canteen

Due to a lack of available produce, we have suspended canteen for the remainder of Term 1.