



St Andrew's Parish

## **CORPUS CHRISTI PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

### **Start of Term 2 and “Learning at Home Plans”**

We are certainly living through an extraordinary period in our lives and one that is still difficult to comprehend is happening. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families who have been directly impacted by the devastating COVID-19 pandemic.

Even though there are early signs that ‘the curve is flattening’ slightly, it is vital to continue the social distancing and hygiene practices that have been part of our everyday practices and vocabulary for the past 6 weeks and that these are followed diligently by us all.

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April we were advised by the Victorian Chief Health Officer, the Premier of Victoria and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV), that all Victorian schools are required to transition to remote and flexible learning arrangements for Term 2.

Therefore, from the start of Term 2, as we act to slow the spread of coronavirus, all children who can learn at home MUST learn from home.

It is important that I reiterate that the safety of ALL in our community is paramount – children, staff and families. Arrangements to support the needs of members of our community, while ensuring the safety and wellbeing of staff and students is at the fore of all decisions needing to be made during this unprecedented time in our recent history!

To support in ensuring the safety of all at Corpus Christi, it is vital that every effort is made to ensure children stay home if at all possible. Staff will primarily be working remotely from home and ensuring that they are connecting with their children. They will be continually developing and reviewing Remote Learning Resources to support the continuity of learning for Corpus Christi students.

I also remind parent/carers that for those students who come to school, limited staff will be providing supervision only. To clarify, these students will be accessing remote learning in the same way as their peers will be from home. The supervisors will not be actively engaged in teaching of children who attend school and supervisors will not necessarily be their own teacher.

The following are some changes to the way we will need to operate for children who need to be supervised at school as we seek to ensure that all in our community are safe:

- ***Children are to be brought to school and are to go straight into class from 8.30am. Children will not be able to play in the yard before school. Parent /carers will need to leave the school grounds once children are brought to school.***
- ***Children will need to bring their lunch, snack and drink with them as there will be no lunch orders.***
- ***As is the case in our community parks and gardens, the school playground equipment will be closed and unable to be used. Children will have structured***

*breaks for exercise and fresh air but will not be playing any contact games with other children.*

- *During both class time and during breaks children will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing.*
- *Any child who is showing any indication of illness will be sent home.*

### **Start of Term 2**

**All staff will return virtually to school next Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April and will work, plan and meet primarily remotely. On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April all students will begin remote learning. Students who need to be at school will begin on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 8.30am.**

Please be aware that Quantin Binnah will continue to provide full care and supervision for all children requiring care on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April. (Before School Care and After School Care will continue to be provided by Quantin Binnah and will begin on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April). Please contact Quantin Binnah on 9742-5040 if you require care on these 2 days.

### **Learning at Home Plans**

Teachers have been working hard on developing 'Learning at Home Plans' that have clear processes and protocols for supporting home learning for your child.

Each Unit at Corpus Christi – Foundation, Junior, Middle and Senior Units will provide every family at our school with information about how and when they will receive learning materials and feedback. The methods our students will use to access learning while at home, will vary according to need and the grade your child is in. You will receive information from your child's teacher via email or the REMIND App regarding your Unit's "Learning at Home Plan" on Wednesday next week.

Staff, children and parents are all called to contribute in positive and supportive ways to ensure the continuity of learning for our children during this unique time.

**In all our "Plans" we have outlined the following:**

- 1) Children's responsibilities and expectations**
- 2) How staff will engage with your family and what they will provide and**
- 3) The ways we call on parents and carers to engage in this process of 'Learning at Home'**

We believe this will provide clarity and support for you and your child but always know that you can make contact with your Home Group teacher directly to discuss or clarify any aspect of your child's "Learning at Home Plan".

*It is important to highlight that during this time of remote and flexible learning that we too, as a staff are learning and developing ways to support all children and families in this new learning process. We will be on this learning journey together but you can be assured of our total commitment to supporting all children and families in whatever ways we can!*

Teachers and leaders in the school are committed to maintaining a connection with all families and will do so in a number of ways:

- Teachers have created links to access remote Home Learning via the Student Desktop and Student Team Drive or via email
- Regular Group emails will be sent to families and at other times individual emails will be sent to parents and/or children
- *Google Hangouts / Zoom*

Connection may be possible via “Google Hangouts” and “Zoom” where staff and students can login and see their whole home group and have a discussion or just catch up. This way of connecting would provide an important opportunity for your child to connect with his/her friends and teacher. During this time instructions and support can be given by the teacher and children may be able to share their learnings about a particular activity or project they are completing etc.

***Guidelines for Time Allocations when Learning at Home***

• The following daily guidelines regarding time allocation for learning at home are recommended and a proposed outline of what this could like during a day will be provided by individual units for your child/ren:

***For students in Foundation to Year 2 (2 to 3 hours per day)***

- literacy activities that take a total of about 45–60 minutes
- numeracy activities of around 30–45 minutes
- additional learning areas, play-based learning and physical activity of about 30–45 minutes.

***For students in Years 3 to 6 (3 to 4 hours per day)***

- literacy: 45–60 minutes
- numeracy: 30–45 minutes
- physical activities: 30 minutes
- additional curriculum areas: 90 minutes.

***In the coming week we will also be making contact with families regarding digital technology availability and network access at home. Once again, we assure you of our support in whatever way possible.***

I am acutely aware that many in our community may have been impacted in such a way that has caused financial hardship. If this has been the case for you and your family please do not hesitate to contact me at [principal@ccwerribee.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@ccwerribee.catholic.edu.au) so that we can explore confidential financial support arrangements to enable you child’s ongoing education at Corpus Christi.

Finally, as we navigate our way through this difficult time together, may we live these times patiently, compassionately and positively and we must all take care to support one another. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who may be unwell, and those who are working to keep our community safe.

We are all in this together, and together we will get through this. I look forward to connecting with you during the term.

***As we move towards Easter, we take inspiration from our school name – Corpus Christi – the Body of Christ and ask that we are all the Body of Christ in our world today and through us enable all to experience God’s love, compassion and care of each other. I pray that everyone within our Corpus Christi School and St Andrew’s Parish Community remain safe and well.***

***With kind regards,  
Linda***