

## *Return to School Update – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May*

### ***Corpus Christi is Ready to Welcome Students Back to School***

We look forward to welcoming children in Foundation, Grade 1 and Grade 2 on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May in line with the state government's plan for a phased return to onsite learning in Victorian schools.

Teachers and staff are very much looking forward to the students' return. To support staff to prepare for the students' return, **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May will be a student-free day. Therefore there will be NO onsite learning nor will staff be available to respond to home learning on this day.**

Our parents and carers have been incredibly supportive of remote learning over the past several weeks, but I know many will join me in looking forward to the return to the school routine and classroom-based teaching as our children return to school.

The period of remote learning, while challenging in some ways, has strengthened the sense of partnership we have with our parents in the education process.

I am very proud of our team here at Corpus Christi who have done an enormous amount of work to keep our students progressing with their learning and now preparing for their return.

Our teachers are also very aware that some students will need extra support when they return and we will monitor each child's progress closely.

Our school will operate within the Victorian Government's recommended COVID-19 safety guidelines, including hygiene practices, social distancing and restricted access to the school site.

***In this update I have outlined the specific details of particular practices and arrangements for keeping students, staff and families safe at Corpus Christi.***

The following procedure has been put in place as we welcome our Foundation and Grade 1&2 children back to school on Tuesday.

#### ***School Arrival and Departure***

- There will be 3 entry and departure gates for children and each will be attached to a colour and as children arrive they will receive a coloured card representing the gate they arrive through.
  - Russell Street Gate – RED,
  - Carpark Gate - YELLOW
  - Emergency Access Gate (near the portables) - BLUE.

**All gates will be locked until 8.30am and from 9.00am.** We ask that you please contact the school via phone and use the Russell Street gate during the day, if required. Late arrivals please use the Russell Street gate.

- We ask that families use the gate of first entry as their USUAL gate of entry and departure – IF POSSIBLE
- We will use the Coloured Card system to support children (particularly those in younger grades) to remember their designated gate at dismissal.
- However, we realise that a different gate may be more suitable for you and that is OK – please use the gate that you feel best suits your family's arrival / departure from school.

### ***Foundation Children and their Siblings in Grades 1&2***

Foundation children and any sibling in Grades One or Two are asked to enter through the Emergency Gate (near the portables) BLUE Gate. Children will be provided with a Blue Card as they come through this gate. Some Foundation staff will be present to welcome and support children's return at the gate.

### ***Junior Children***

Junior children are asked to enter through the Carpark gate – YELLOW or Russell Street gate – RED if possible. As children enter the school, they will be given a coloured card. Some Junior staff will be present to welcome and support children's return at the gate.

**NO further Home Learning is provided for Prep – Year 2 students from return to school as teachers are face to face teaching.**

### ***Uniform***

We are now in Winter Uniform for students

### ***Children in Grades 3-6 working onsite from 26<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> June***

ALL children in Grades 3-6 who are working onsite will maintain their entry point at the Russell Street gate as they will continue to be signed in individually as they arrive.

### ***Staggered Drop-off Times***

- a) 8.30am - 8.45am Family Names A-K
- b) 8.45am - 9.00am Family Names L-Z

**IMPORTANT:** Parents need to drop off their children and avoid congregating near and around the gate and to leave as soon as they can.

### ***Staggered Pick-up times***

- a) 2.50pm Family Names A-K
- b) 3.05pm Family Names L-Z

**IMPORTANT:** Parents are asked to remain in their cars if possible or to stand at a distance until children are brought out to the gates and to not congregate near exits.

- **All children will be required to use sanitizer on the hands as they enter the school**
- **No adults should gather in groups outside school gates please**
- **No gates can be opened early.**

***NB: We will closely monitor our Staggered Drop-off and Pick-up procedures during the coming weeks and adapt as required.***

### ***Out of School Hours Care Program***

Quantin Binnah will operate from 6.30am as usual in the mornings and from 3.05 – 6.00pm in the afternoons. They can be contacted on 9742-5040 should you require care at these times.

## *Transitioning back to School*

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice to all schools.

### *School Hygiene and Cleaning*

- We are taking extra measures to ensure that the school is kept clean and safe for all.
- All classrooms are thoroughly cleaned including disinfecting tables, chairs and other surfaces.
- Hand sanitizer is available around the school including all classrooms.
- Use of sanitizer by children will be monitored by staff.
- Please inform us if your child is allergic or unable to use sanitizer for health reasons.
- Extra areas for handwashing will be available in most areas.
- Children will be directed to use sanitizer after all breaks and before eating.
- As much as possible we will be encouraging non-contact activities for children.
- Health Department advice currently stipulates that schools do not need to socially distance children.
- Staff will be very mindful of physical distancing whilst onsite.
- All students will be reminded constantly of all required protocols for hygiene including handwashing, sanitizing, use of tissues and appropriate measures when coughing and sneezing.
- Shared drinking fountains will not be used for the moment. **ALL CHILDREN NEED A WATER BOTTLE WITH THEIR NAME CLEARLY ON IT.**

### **Other changed arrangements will include but won't be limited to:**

- adjusted arrangements for drop-off and pick-up (as outlined above)
- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than school staff and students
- completion of a declaration form for all visitors who need to be onsite for a specific purpose
- increased signage to remind staff, students and families of the need for changed behaviours, including social distancing and hygiene practices

### *Adults Onsite*

Please note that at the moment we are not permitted to have other adults onsite whilst children and staff are at school.

We ask that you phone the office or email us if you have enquiries at the moment.

School phone: 97418440

School Admin email: [ccschooloffice@ccwerribee.catholic.edu](mailto:ccschooloffice@ccwerribee.catholic.edu).

Accounts can be paid online or by phoning the office.

**If you need to visit the school for any reason we ask that you phone the office first. This includes collecting children during school hours.**

### *Absent Children*

The normal requirements will be in place for children who are unwell and cannot attend.

Please email teachers before 8.30am or email [ccschooloffice@ccwerribee.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ccschooloffice@ccwerribee.catholic.edu.au) or phone the office.

### *Late Arrivals*

We ask that you arrive for school within the specified times but should you arrive late, entry will be through the Russell Street gate. Please call the school office to notify us that you have arrived and we will collect your child from you at the gate.

### *Unwell Children*

Please note that any child who is unwell for any reason is not permitted to attend school. We will be checking temperatures on unwell children if necessary as a precaution.

***If a child is unwell at school they will need to be collected immediately and should not return until they are well.***

### *Supporting Children as they Transition Back to School*

As a way to support your child during their transition back to school, I ask that you support in preparing your child for the changes that will be in place. This can be done by speaking with your child and letting them know that things may look and be different in many respects, but that these changes will be necessary to have in place, in order to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus and to help everyone to be healthy and safe.

Speak to your child about why we need to use additional gates to enter and leave the school as this reduces the number of children entering through a gate and the staggered times of arrival and departure supports the flow of people needing to pick-up or drop-off children.

Let them know that you won't be able to walk them to their classroom as usual but they will be in great hands with their teachers and support staff, when they arrive and during the day.

We thank you for this support as we believe this will really help reassure your child during this transition process.

**We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.**

**More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the CECV website, which will continue to be updated: [www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents](http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents).**

*All our arrangements and practices will be carefully monitored and adapted as necessary. I will ensure regular updates are communicated to all families, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.*

***Thank you for your continued support during this time. We look forward to welcoming all students back to school. We are really missing them!***

***Stay safe and stay well!***

***With kind regards,  
Linda***

## ***IN SUMMARY***

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### ***Illness***

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school.

### ***Transition Back to School***

Please speak with your child and share some of the reasons for the changed practices that they will experience at school.

Reassure your child that we are really looking forward to their return and all precautions that we have put in place are to help keep them be as safe and healthy as possible.