



23 March 2020

Re: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you for the support you have shown the school. We are in extraordinary times and appreciate the way you are pulling together as a community. However, it is important that we all **keep vigilant**. As time continues, it is easy for us not to see many manifestations of illness in our circles of contact and become complacent. This will change in the days and weeks ahead and we need to instil behaviours now that will keep our **families and children safe** for the long term.

You will have heard that **NAPLAN testing has been cancelled for this year**. The Education Council, consisting of all education ministers, indicated that the decision was "*taken to assist school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the wellbeing of students and continuity of education*".

Throughout the term, you have received date claimer information for the upcoming Parent / Student / Teacher Conversations scheduled on Thursday 2 April and Friday 3 April. After much consideration in light of the current COVID-19 scenario, **the School has made the decision to postpone the scheduled Parent / Student / Teacher Conversations on Thursday 2 April and Friday 3 April**. We look forward to being able to advise you of the rescheduled dates of the Parent / Student / Teacher Conversations. **Please note in light of this decision, that Friday 3 April will no longer be a Pupil Free Day and students will attend school as per normal.**

In line with this clear Government advice, **school will continue** in its current form until we are advised otherwise. Accordingly, the school is implementing a range of practices and changes to ensure the school is operating in line with **current medical advice and leading hygiene practices**. We are again asking parents to support us **at home** by doing the following:

- Please reinforce the need for handwashing regularly, as well as ensuring good hand coverage and suitable amount of washing occurs (20 seconds).
- Remind children not to touch their faces (or only to do so directly after hand washing).
- Reinforce that sneezing or coughing should be done into either their elbow or a tissue.
- Students need to stay at home if anyone is feeling unwell.
- Please ensure all lunch boxes and bags are cleaned thoroughly each night. Drinking containers also should be sanitised each night.
- Students should not bring handkerchiefs to school, rather be supplied with their own small pack of tissues (students are also able to bring their own hand sanitiser if they wish).
- Parents should also now have a long-term strategy in place for childcare/supervision if schools close (even if this is not needed to be enacted).

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Please be assured that the school is working in the background to **prepare for all contingencies**, whether this is extended holidays, partial or full closure. We will ensure your child has all they need to continue their learning and achieve their learning outcomes. More information will come home about these preparations if/when needed.

The school is committed to providing a healthy, happy and safe schooling experience for your children and your family. We appreciate your ongoing support at this unpredictable time and the understanding and consideration you are showing to the teachers and school staff as we navigate through these issues.

Should you or any family member require pastoral care support during this time, please do not hesitate to contact the school so that we can put you in contact with Pastor Mike Neldner (St Paul's Lutheran Church – M: 0421 131 965) or Pastor Will Smith (Connect Church – M: 0418 721 118).

Yours sincerely

Anton Prinsloo
PRINCIPAL