



26 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

These are very challenging and uncertain times for us all but be assured that we are here for you and your family.

SJMS and Catholic Education SA is committed to ensuring educational, spiritual and pastoral support for every child in our school.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacts every aspect of our life – our families, our work and our wellbeing. Every day there are new restrictions in place and many new questions.

### **Fee remission**

Amongst all the worries that we have at this time – worrying about the payment of school fees should not be one of those things. Please be assured of our support for your family. If your family has lost significant income due to COVID-19 you will receive a total school fee remission effective immediately, initially for a period of 3 months. We will continue to review the fee situation for individual families and the school as a whole. Further information will be released early next week.

### **Pupil free days (6-9 April)**

The Government has announced that the final week of this school term (Monday 6 April – Thursday 9 April) will be a pupil free week across all South Australian schools. This means that the last day of Term for students will be Friday 3 April.

Although I am confident that the SJMS teachers are already well prepared, this time will enable teachers and school staff to prepare for the remote delivery of lessons.

Our OSHC arrangements during the pupil free period and vacation care during school holidays will be given shortly.

### **Online learning**

Catholic Education SA and SJMS are working to guarantee that learning will continue for your child. We will ensure that students can continue their studies remotely and remain connected with their teachers. We are also working with the government to ensure that – where parents need to work – that students can access schooling. Tomorrow further information will be going home regarding our online learning.

### **Commitment to your child**

Please be assured. Your child matters to us. Your family matters to us.

Our absolute commitment is that we will support your child in their learning and wellbeing at this difficult time whether they are physically at school or at home.

Regular updates are being provided on the Catholic Education SA website – [www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/alerts](http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/alerts)

## **Social distancing**

Can I please ask that you be mindful that we are endeavouring to make our school both a place for community, but most importantly a clean environment for students and staff.

You would have noticed that we have recommenced taking William St students outside after school to minimize the static gathering of students in groups that was occurring in the Piazza.

As I endeavour to honour our schools position as a community hub, while embracing the recommendations from State Government, I ask you to consider whether you can refine your movements within our school to honour social distancing parameters currently in place within our state.

Can I please ask you to review your current practices and determine the necessity of entering into classrooms and school grounds. Could I please ask you to maximise your use of the "kiss and drop" for drop off and collection and utilize email were possible to engage with staff.

This is contrary to who we are at SJMS, we are human and always in relationship, we are a community. However, we are a community who is most concerned about keeping our children and staff safe and well.

Thank you for your understanding during this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brady Stallard', written in a cursive style.

Brady Stallard