



18 March 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Thank you for your patience in these uncertain times. I have been comforted by the level of calm and consequently feel that this has enabled our school to be agile in preparing for the possibility of a potential school closure.

While there is a lot of discussion regarding school closures in Australia to minimise the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), Catholic Education SA (CESA) is working closely with the Minister for Education and Minister for Health who are determining the best course of action for SJMS and all CESA schools, with the whole community in mind. While there have been some parents keeping their children at home, our school will remain open until we are advised otherwise by CESA.

As I wrote last week, if in the event the school has a forced closure, the school will contact parents via Skoolbag and email.

In the event of a school closure, SJMS has contingency plans in place to allow our students to continue their learning using online measures to minimise the impact, however until this time we haven't got the resources to offer two mediums of teaching simultaneously, which are 'face-to-face' and 'online'.

Some of these contingents are not limited by, but include using the following platforms;

- Preschool – StoryPark
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2/3 classes – SeeSaw
- Year 4 and Year 5/6 classes – Microsoft Teams

In the event of a closure, online learning will occur from 9:30am-10am each day. Although this looks very different from platform to platform, the platform chosen by each year level has been well considered and deemed most age-appropriate for each year level.

Over the coming days teachers will discuss with students how to access each of their platforms and communicate the more specific norms of the continued learning.

In addition to this, from today each class will be taking home approximately 10 books from the library in preparation for a possible school closure. Each child is encouraged to keep these at home and return their read books as often as they wish. In addition, students in Reception to Year 3 will take home an oversupply of readers to ensure continued progress in reading occurs.

These are uncertain times in our community, however at the upmost importance is for us to care for each other, remain calm and adhere to the health precautions so we can best minimise the risk to each other.

Yours sincerely

Brady Stallard  
Principal