

17th March 2020

Dear Parents

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) and how we are responding to it is dominating the news. At school we are developing our plans in order to deal with various scenarios. The situation continues to be very fluid as we adapt and respond to changes.

The Chief Health Officer for Western Australia, Dr Andrew Robertson, has clarified that the basis on which he would direct closure of a school would be a positive COVID-19 test result in a school. The education sector in Western Australia is working collaboratively to respond to advice provided by the WA Department of Health. There is agreement nationally and at a state level that there is no need to close schools as a pre-emptive measure at this point.

The current focus is on minimising and preventing transmission. To date, there are no confirmed cases, students or staff, of COVID-19 in WA schools.

At St John Paul II, any gatherings greater in size than the immediate class are being evaluated closely. So too mixed year level events. As such, I can let you know that for the remainder of this term the following events have been cancelled or postponed:

- All Monday and Friday Assemblies (Including this Friday's Harmony Day event)
- Annunciation - whole school Mass on 25 March
- Interschool Swimming Carnival
- Excursions
- Choir and Band practice from the end of this week
- After school sport from the end of this week

At this stage, school photos and Collaborative Conferences will proceed as planned.

Swimming lessons, scheduled to take place at the start of second term, have been cancelled. I will be looking at other events in term 2 over the next week or so.

Be assured that as a school community we are following government directives and that we have also opted to put extra precautions in place.

Please, if your child is sick, do not send them to school.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Regards

Chris Lamb
Principal