



# St Augustine's Primary School Newsletter

**8 April**  
**Week 10**

## **PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents/Guardians

This week as school staff finalise teaching and learning plans for Term Two – albeit under very unusual circumstances – we have received advice from Catholic Education Western Australia that Term Two will commence as scheduled for schools in Western Australia under the current conditions.

For all Catholic schools, St Augustine's included, learning will continue to be delivered remotely and all parents and caregivers are encouraged to keep their children at home.

As has been the case since we transitioned to remote learning in Term One, parents and caregivers who are engaged in essential services or are required to maintain employment may choose to send their children to school if they are unable to care for them at home.

Our staff will continue to work through Term Two to ensure we can best support our students' learning from home, as well as those students who may be at school. Some staff may be working from home, or from the school, as appropriate.

As parents, you are playing an important hands-on role, assisting your children in engaging in learning at this time, as well as supporting them through any anxiety or worry they may be feeling. I would like to stress that parents are by no means expected to take the place of teachers, and we will be doing our very best to support you and your child, delivering the curriculum and providing pastoral care in the most engaging way possible under the current conditions.

As we continue to work together to support your child's ongoing learning, we acknowledge that it will be important to maintain regular contact between the school and parents and caregivers and the feedback we have received has been discussed and taken into account where possible in our planning. Please be assured you will receive further details of our plans in this regard from your classroom teachers in advance of term two commencement.

These plans have been well considered, and while we are initially planning for remote delivery of learning for the first four weeks of Term Two, we are also considering the potential for this to be extended as required.

We remain committed to the care and wellbeing of our school and broader community, especially those most vulnerable who must remain our first priority. One aspect of this is considering the social and financial impact of this situation on many families.

As communicated last week, I wish to reassure every parent and caregiver that the ongoing enrolment of every child in our school is guaranteed, regardless of a parent's financial circumstances.

If parents or caregivers have concerns in this regard, I encourage you to contact Mr Steeve Lee or myself to confidentially discuss financial arrangements. The following options are immediately available to all families with children in Catholic schools:

- The Centrelink Health Care Card Discount Scheme provides an automatic fee concession to the holders of eligible means-tested family concession cards. Additional financial considerations are also available depending on each family's circumstance.
- For parents who do not qualify for the Health Care Card discount, but who are experiencing financial difficulties, arrangements can be made to provide immediate support to assist you with tuition costs.

Our school staff are grateful for the support and appreciation that so many parents and caregivers have shared as we journey together through this challenging time.

I will keep you updated with any new information as it becomes available.

As would normally be the case at this time, I draw your attention to Easter and the passion of Jesus. As many of us are painfully aware one of the toughest things in life is to walk the painful journey of suffering of someone who is dear to us. On Good Friday we recall how Mary experienced such suffering when she encountered the tattered and bloodied image of her child on the road to his death. This is a haunting image and one which can be very challenging, but the Easter story is also one of great hope. I would like to share the following reflection with you as we head towards the break and hope you can take something from it in these stressful times when we are bombarded with news of distress and suffering around the globe and for some of us suffering in our own family

**If the space within us feels as desolate as the tomb  
If the light has not yet dawned in the garden of shadows,  
We are in good company  
In such a place Mary walked bewildered, and there she met the Risen Christ.  
We who weep seek him too:  
Tenderly he touches eyes blinded by tears.**

*Kathy Coffey, Dancing in the Margins*

God Bless and have a Safe Happy and Holy Easter.

Yours sincerely

John Ryan  
Principal  
St Augustine's Primary School.