



St Mark's

ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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A School of the Anglican Schools Commission Inc.

Tuesday 31 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your ongoing support of the School and our staff as we continue to implement our Distance Learning Plan this week. Feedback regarding our students' engagement with the Plan, whether at school or at home, continues to be positive, and we appreciate the time taken by many families to provide such strong encouragement to our staff. I am sure, however, that there are things we can learn from at this relatively early stage of the implementation of our Plan. We will seek feedback from you in the coming days about the continuity of teaching and learning in this mode, from your perspective, and will endeavour to be agile enough to make any necessary adjustments.

Last week, St Mark's staff were almost all based on our campus while providing distance learning for our students. As is the case in many workplaces, this week we have almost all of our staff working from home to provide for their health and wellbeing. Of course, distance learning for our students continues as usual.

We have a small group of students continuing to attend school according to the needs of their families, and we continue to provide supervision and support for those young people as they engage with their distance learning while on site at the school. They are being well cared for each day by a group of staff. I appreciate that a strong majority of families are keeping their children at home where it is possible to do so.

I remind you that St Mark's will continue with our Distance Learning Plan until the end of Term 1 on 9 April unless any further restrictions are imposed by Government. We will confirm arrangements for Term 2 at some time in the next few weeks. Government schools will cease learning programs on Friday 3 April and use the last week of Term 1 for planning and professional development, without the majority of students on site.

The School is here to support all our families during this difficult time. We understand all families are facing unexpected challenges due to COVID-19 and we want to reiterate our support for you, our school community. For those families under severe strain, please contact the School so we can talk about how to best support you during this time. Contact may be made with our Business Manager, Mrs Carolyn Gray, at cgray@stmarks.wa.edu.au or by telephone at 9403 1301. The Anglican Schools Commission and St Mark's have confirmed this commitment in a letter to School families, provided [HERE](#).

Letters being sent home regarding decisions being made by the School and issues relating to our response to COVID-19 are available on our web site [HERE](#). A 'Frequently Asked Questions' document may also be found there.

As the days and weeks pass and we face ongoing social restrictions, wellbeing may become an even more relevant issue for our young people and parents. Our School Psychologist, Mrs Samantha Goldberg, has curated some valuable resources on the School's web site [HERE](#). I encourage you to familiarise yourself with these resources.

I shared this short prayer yesterday with our staff, and I share it with you too.

Prayer for Week 9, by Edward Everett Hale

*God give me strength
to look up and not down,
to look forward and not back,
to look out and not in and
to lend a hand. Amen*

Stay well.

Yours sincerely

Steven Davies
Principal