



Our Lady of The Visitation Catholic School

Preschool – Year 6

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Covid 19 – Update 10

Return to Term 2

It has been wonderful to have students back to preschool & school this week with now over 80% of students in attendance. Whilst we have been continuing to deliver our learning programs for those at school and at home, students who have returned to school, have enjoyed the social interactions with their peers and re-connecting with their teachers. I was discussing this with the teachers on Monday afternoon, where Ms Willson made the comment that from her observations, the children's resilience and lack of routines and structures were affected most, requiring the guidance of the teacher to re-establish these dispositions for learning.

The coronavirus has in many ways become an unprecedented test for teacher-student relationships, forcing a readjustment of expectations without in-person interaction or acknowledgement of classmates. Of course, teachers want their students to master content, develop a love of learning and move on to the next year level. But our teachers also know that success requires time and trusting relationships and they really miss their students.

As I write to you, South Australia has recorded its seventh consecutive day with zero new coronavirus cases, a milestone not seen since the outbreak began. A total of 96 per cent of people have recovered from COVID-19 with just 14 active cases remaining. Things are getting back to "normal". For those students not returning to school in Week 3, parents must email me, fdetullio@olv.catholic.edu.au by Friday 8th May informing of the decision not to send their child to school.

At OLV, we continue to feel strongly that it is safe for your children to be at school based on this clear evidence and we would like to see as close to all students in attendance come next Monday. We do respect that families will make a decision based on their own circumstances but we urge you to consider sending your child back to school so we can provide them with the best education possible – with their teachers in a face-to-face classroom. Of course, if your child is unwell, they should stay at home, just as they would under normal circumstances.

Transition of Learning Program

The teachers have been highly successful in planning work for Term 2 in a climate of uncertainty. Our goal is now to transition from the flexible learning program back to the "normal" class teaching. This will be done over the next few weeks. At OLV, our plan is:

Week 2 Transition period to "back to normal"

Hybrid – face/face & online

Week 3 Normal face / face teaching

Those not at school, will be provided with some direction / work

Parents keeping children at home will be required to provide structure and support.

Term 2 Activities

Until we are notified, we will continue to have no whole school events, eg Assemblies, School Masses, excursions etc. The staff are coming up with creative ideas to celebrate Mother's Day and other important events for term 2.

Semester 1 Reports

Reporting on student's learning and skills for learning remains a priority. At the end of this term you will receive your child's Semester 1 Report (Friday 26th June) followed by Learning Conversations in the last week of this term. We have pushed these back a week to allow extra time for the teachers to assess the students, especially those who have been absent for an extended period.

The Learning Conversations, depending on the social distancing measures that are in place at the time, could be done via Teams. As we get closer to the end of June, I hope things may be a bit more relaxed regarding social distancing.

We believe it is important to still communicate students' progress with you.

Winter Uniform

The **Uniform Shop will be open next Thursday 7th May 8.30am – 10.00am** and I ask parents to observe social isolation requirements. As such as we move into Term 2 and change over to Winter Uniform, we always have a two week change over period to provided families time to be able to organise this as we return to school.

At this stage, students can continue to wear their summer uniform if they do not have a winter uniform (please ensure they are warm). Otherwise, please find the Uniform price list on our school website (Our School – Uniform), download the form, complete it with credit card details and hand it to the Office who will provide this to the Uniform shop.

Hats – are still worn in May for PE Lessons and play times. Students not wearing a hat at play will be asked to sit under a verandah. We do not wear hats in June, July & August.

May you and those you care about remain safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Frank DeTullio
Principal