



Good Shepherd
Catholic Primary School
PRE-KINDERGARTEN
TO YEAR 6

Learning through Faith, Love and Laughter

Newsletter 4 Term 1 Week 7

16 March 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Things continue to unfold fairly smoothly for us as we transition back to school as a community. It is very hard work at the moment, the COVID complications impact on everyone and I would like to pass on my thanks again, to all families for your continued support and compliance with the structures we have needed to implement to ensure the safety of the children.

COVID Update

Since the start of this week, our attendance rates have hovered between 68% on Monday and 77% today which presents to me as a good outcome, considering the last couple of weeks in our community. Positive cases among the children have completely slowed down (touch wood!) but as I have mentioned in a previous communication, parents and other family members are now testing positive, which is placing stress on families.

I would again like to reinforce that the teacher's focus must remain on the face-to-face teaching and learning in the classrooms. We do have some immune compromised children in our school who have provided a letter from a medical practitioner reflecting the health risks associated with them coming to school. These children will be provided with a more comprehensive remote learning package to accommodate their learning. In cases where parents have chosen to keep their children away from school at

this time, while we respect your decision, we can only provide fairly generic learning opportunities through our remote learning model for these children while they are absent from school.

A number of parents I have been speaking to on the carpark have indicated to me that they have been accessing the link provided on Monday to self-report COVID testing results which certainly takes the onus off the Principal in these busy times. I encourage everyone to engage with this new self-reporting link as you work through your testing regime at home. See the details and link below.

As far as our carpark processes are concerned, I still believe we should maintain these processes for at least a fortnight, taking us through until Friday, 25 March and we can re-visit the situation then. This includes parents coming on-site (apart from the Kindy parents dropping their child off at the classroom door), reflective of the growing number of parents testing positive following their child testing positive.

A small tweak to the carpark process in the afternoon will be for us to move the cars picking up one student who are towards the front of the queue to a parking bay in the "middle" section of our carpark and their child will be taken over to them when they arrive at the shed. Our aim is to get the families with siblings to the shed first before the single GSK children in the family is instructed to head up to the carpark. It is a busy place, particularly on Kindy days so please be patient and bear in mind that we are happy to remain out on the carpark until 3:30pm if that helps.

Remote Learning

I would like to acknowledge the teaching staff for the agility they have demonstrated at short notice to accommodate the remote learning needs in our community at a variety of different levels according to the circumstances children have found themselves in. Our hope is that we have got through the worst of the positive cases now, particularly in such a short timeframe and the numbers back at school participating in the face-to-face teaching and learning remain strong.

Replacement Priest

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been working through a process to find a replacement priest for our school community at GSK, given that Fr Pavol is unable to come into our school. Our plan is to begin a process, with a replacement priest from Thursday, 24 March to ensure as many classes as possible (Years 3-6) are able to celebrate the Eucharist together and enjoy the sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Easter.

Swimming update

In light of the number of classes isolating last week, which was our second week of swimming lessons, we have been unable to reschedule another week of swimming lessons for the children, there are no timeslots left at the Armadale Aquatic Centre. We are in the process of paying the invoices and will be providing an appropriate credit to the school fees for each family. We did receive the certificates for the children earlier this week, which will be handed out to the children later this week. I am also in the process of re-scheduling our school swimming carnival at St Brigid's College to mid-way through Term 4, so that all the children can experience a swimming carnival this year, some will experience two carnivals which will be great for them!

Uniform Shop Update

The uniform shop continues to be open for parents to purchase uniform items in person, but please ensure only one family is in the shop at one time.

Upcoming Pupil-Free Days

A reminder to all parents that we have planned a pupil-free day in our community on the last day of Term 1, Friday, 8 April. Our school will be closed for students on this day while the staff participate in a range of professional development opportunities.

Finally, it was an enjoyable afternoon yesterday when I got to run around the cross country track with the children from Years 3-6. The opportunity for the children to take their mask off and put it in their pocket while they were running around the track seemed to give them an extra boost of energy which was good to see!

Best wishes for the next fortnight,

Parent and Caregiver Correspondence: Self-Reporting Portal for COVID-19

It is vitally important that parents and caregivers inform the school if their child tests positive for COVID-19.

To support our planning for your child's classroom attendance, please continue to notify Good Shepherd, Kelmscott, if your child returns a negative PCR/ RAT result, after:

- being identified as a close contact (Day 1 test to return to school as an asymptomatic close contact), and/or
- being identified as a household close contact (Day 7 test to conclude quarantine).

To help streamline this process a [COVID-19 Self-reporting Form for Students and Staff members](#) has been developed by Catholic Education WA (CEWA). Parents and caregivers can now inform the school of their child's positive or negative COVID result via this [LINK](#). The information will go directly to the Principal, prompting our COVID response.

The link will also be available on the Good Shepherd, Kelmscott website.

Please do not underestimate the importance of informing Good Shepherd, Kelmscott of a positive COVID case. Your actions will ensure the risk to others is minimised and that we do our very best to limit the spread of the virus across our community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1

Tuesday, 22 March - SAC Meeting 6pm

Wednesday, 23 March - **Harmony Day - Liturgy 9am.
Dress-up in clothing from child's cultural heritage
or in **orange** for a gold coin donation.**

[Click for the Current Term 1 Calendar](#)



Harmony Day – Wednesday, 23 March 2022

Everyone Belongs!

Our diversity makes Australia a great place to live.

Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

• **CULTURAL HERITAGE DRESS FOR THE DAY**

To celebrate Harmony Day, students are invited to come to school dressed in clothing from their cultural heritage or in the colour **orange**, which is the official Harmony Day colour.

• **HARMONY DAY PRAYER SERVICE**

In class prayer services students will celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community

• **GOLD COIN DONATION FOR PROJECT COMPASSION**

Students are requested to bring a gold coin that will be collected for Project Compassion who will use the donation to assist a culture in the world who is in need.



[Term 1 2022 Canteen Roster](#)

[Canteen Menu](#)

CANTEEN

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who help in the canteen. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Wendy, Canteen Manager

[Order Canteen Here](#)

Enrolments 2023

If you are seeking a place for your child in Kindergarten 2023 or know someone that would be interested in sending their child to GSK, please contact the office for an enrolment pack or consult our website. **Families with siblings are also required to submit an enrolment form.**

Enrolments in other Year groups are also available

[Your child's journey starts HERE](#)



Camp Australia - Before and After School Care

Bookings now open for 2022

Families can prepare for the new school year as **2022 bookings for Your OSHC program are now open.** Registration is **free** for families. We recommend that all families register so if

you ever need or want to attend, all you need to do is book your session as we'll already have all the documentation we need from you. You simply have to log in and register through our [Parent Portal](#), also available as a smartphone app, and start booking.

[Camp Australia Information](#)

Uniform Shop 2022

Opening Times are changing in 2022:

Monday afternoon 2.00-3.30pm and Friday morning 8.00-9.30am

(If there is a Public Holiday, the Uniform Shop will open on Tuesday afternoon)

Linda, Uniform shop Manager

Click on the button below for the Uniform Policy

[Uniform Policy](#)

School Fees

Please direct any enquiries to the accounts email: accounts@gsk.wa.edu.au or call 9496 9200 Option 3

Lee Maxfield - Finance Officer

Lumen Christi College - Instrumental Program

For information and enrolment, please click on the button below



The important role of stepfathers

This month we are focussing on dads and the diverse roles they have, and this week we are shining a light on stepfathers.

For anyone who is becoming, or currently a stepfather, knows it's a unique experience with its own challenges and transition period that can take some time. Being patient is key – the benefits and impact on the child make it well worth it.

Take the time to really connect with your stepchild and go at their pace, take it slow, and build the rapport with them.

Top tips to build connection

- 1. Take your stepchild on a 'dad date'.** Have them choose something they are interested in and spend some one on one time together. This shows them you value their time and are really wanting to get to know them.
- 2. Take it slow.** Good things come to those who wait! Take things at a pace that suits your stepchild. Some children might take a little longer to warm to you than others.
- 3. Build trust.** Trust is the foundation to any solid relationship. Be reliable, open and honest with them. Engage in open conversation to hear their perspectives, thoughts and opinions on the situation.

[Read More](#)

Men of GSK - Fathering Project Page

Community News

Armadale Library - [Living Well with Asthma Session - 6 April 2022](#)



Good Shepherd Catholic Parish Kelmscott - Fr Pavol Herda

Parish Website: www.goodshepherdkelmscott.com

Phone: 9495 1489 (Office Wed-Fri)

Masses at our Parish Church

Weekday Masses: Mon-Wed & Friday 8am, Thursday: 6.30pm

Saturday: 8.00am, 6.00pm
8.00pm: Neocatechumenal Mass

Sunday: 8.30am Latin Mass

Sunday: 10:00am and 6:00pm

When attending Mass you are strongly encouraged to maintain physical distancing where possible and not to attend Mass if you are feeling in any way unwell.

Any person aged 16 or over visiting the church and/or attending Mass must complete the mandatory Covid-19 contact register.

[Click here for the Latest Bulletin](#)

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admin@gsk.wa.edu.au

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