



ST GEORGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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18 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 – School Remains Open

This morning, Prime Minister Scott Morrison, announced to the nation that **all schools will remain open**. This decision is supported by National and State health authorities and the Chief Medical Officer. The position of State and National Governments to keep schools open is supported by health experts to be in the best interests of children and the nation.

The School continues to be guided by Government authorities and SGCS will remain open based on their directive.

NSW Health Public Health Unit has assured us that should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the School environment, we will receive immediate advice in order to notify relevant members of our community.

We have implemented a number of measures at School including stringent hygiene practices, social distancing practices, cancellation of excursions, camps, indoor assemblies, amongst a range of other School activities. These measures are in place to minimise any unnecessary risk to students, staff and the wider community.

We continue to provide a normal classroom learning experience for students and encourage all students who are well, not immunocompromised or under Government imposed self-isolation, to be at School as usual.

We have plans in place to provide learning resources and materials to assist students in their studies who cannot attend School for the following reasons:

1. Government imposed self-isolation
2. Immunocompromised students (or household member) with doctor's certificate
3. Extended sick leave (with doctor's certificate)

Our teachers are working hard to deliver lessons to their normal classes and supporting students who cannot and should not attend School for the above reasons.

Our teachers' primary responsibility is to those attending School normally as well as to those who cannot attend School.

If you choose to keep your children away from School for any reason not mentioned in the three categories above, we request that you formally convey this to the School. You can do this via completion of an **Application for Exemption from Attendance at School** form available in the Parent Portal. Class teachers will then be advised.

Where teachers are able, they will support student learning for families choosing to keep their child at home. However, at best this will be limited due to the extraordinary additional demand teachers are facing at this time.

Should the School be requested by the relevant Government authorities to close in the event of a notified case of COVID-19, we would certainly do so. In this instance, we will contact families promptly.

These are uncertain and stretching times for all of us. We can also know that we have certainty in God's faithfulness. He knows our fears and we can trust in his goodness despite these uncertain times.

"When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy." Psalm 94:19

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Honor', written in a cursive style.

James Honor

Principal