



**St Augustine's
Parish School**
Salisbury

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Dear Families

I pray that each one of you has enjoyed some rest and recuperation over the Term break and that all of you and your loved ones are safe and well.

As we look to return to school life in Term 2, I need to make you aware of some very recent changes in the way schools have been asked to operate. The Chief Medical Officer and the Premier of South Australia have decided that **schools should be open and that all children should attend school from day one of Term 2.**

Dr Neil McGoran and Ms Nichii Mardon the Directors of Catholic Education Adelaide Archdiocese and the Diocese of Port Pirie have stated that we will follow the instructions of the South Australian Government and that all Catholic Schools will be open for all children to attend. We encourage all families to send their children back to school in Week 1 of Term 2, while recognising that some families might want to wait a little longer.

The learning at school will transition to face to face in the first week. All learning will be face to face by Week 2. Where families decide to keep children at home, we will provide learning but families are encouraged to send their children to school.

At this time, all competition sport and extra -curricular activities are still on hold. We will update you when this changes.

OSHC will be open from Monday Term 2.

We appreciate that families have been diligent in informing us about their intentions to send children to school. Could we please ask that you text us on 0407 664 190, by the end of today, if you have changed your mind about schooling arrangements after reading this information.

I have attached letters from Bishop Greg O'Kelly and Dr Spurrier, Chief Medical Officer for SA, which provide more background information about this decision.

These changes have come about because we, as responsible South Australians, have heeded the call to isolate and practice safe hygiene over the last nearly three weeks. We have collectively flattened the curve for the COVID19.

Having achieved this very positive outcome, it will be necessary to remain highly vigilant and continue to practice safe hygiene and physical distancing. This will happen at school.

*We are a welcoming community, united in faith, and centred on learning,
who value and nurture the dignity of each individual.*

To assist us and to keep children and staff safe, we ask that parents drop their children off at the gate each morning and collect them from the gate in the afternoon. Please remain in your car until you see your child. **For safety reasons, the Commercial Rd gate will remain closed.**

Our staff will be ready at the gates to assist children and families in the morning and at the end of the day.

If you have a child in Reception, we ask that you bring your child into school and hand them over to the teacher. In the afternoon we ask that you come to the class and collect your child.

We do ask parents to **WAIT OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM** and practice physical distancing. This will mean that parents keep 1.5 metres distance from each other and the children and teachers.

If your child shows ANY sign of being unwell, please keep them at home. Any child who presents at school unwell will be sent home.

The school will continue to clean and disinfect toilets, drink stations and outdoor eating tables three times each day and all classrooms have sanitiser and cleaning products to keep the class areas clean and hygienic. The safety of all of our children and staff is our highest priority.

We are genuinely excited at the prospect of children returning to school and as we navigate through this transition back to school together, we acknowledge that there may be a few challenges along the way. We appreciate the partnership that we have with families and look forward to overcoming any challenges together.

Whether you choose to send your child to school, or keep them home a little longer, our staff are ready to support you and your child/ children in their learning.

We thank God for a more life giving commencement to the new term and pray that we continue to heal and move forward from the impact of this global challenge.

Blessings, peace and good health,

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

Georgia Dennis
Principal.



Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Port Pirie - Bishop



23rd April 2020
20/170

Dear Sisters and Brothers

As I welcome you to Term 2, I send my Easter blessings to you and assure you that you are in my prayers, especially during this blessed Easter Season. At this time, our Catholic community is called to reflect on how we can be Easter people, full of joy and hope, in the midst of the suffering and changed circumstances, COVID 19 has brought into our lives and communities.

As Term 2 begins for our schools we recognise the way Catholic schools model Christian communion and identity and are places of connection and learning. We look forward to transitioning students back to our schools based on the advice we have received from Premier Marshall and the SA Chief Public Health Officer, Nicola Spurrier, who stated that parents should plan to send their children back to school. Dr Spurrier has repeated health advice that schools continue to be safe places for students and staff.

I know that the experience of community is highly valued by families in Catholic schools so I warmly welcome students back to school. I particularly welcome and encourage senior students to be at school to maximise their learning and connection during their final year of school education.

I am proud of the way our Catholic schools have responded to the pandemic and I know they will continue to offer excellent education in welcoming, inclusive, and connected communities. Together we are an expression of being a people of hope, a living and thriving Easter community through our prayers, our words, our actions and our solidarity.

Yours in Christ

+ Gregory O'Kelly SJ
Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie
Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Adelaide

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Dear parents and carers

I hope that you have had the chance to enjoy time with your children during the school holiday period.

The COVID-19 pandemic is and will continue to be, a very worrying time for many parents and carers as we see the devastation caused by this virus around the world. Importantly, schools are a central part of a child's life. They provide stability, a sense of achievement and a rich learning environment for every child. This is especially important at a time when many children and young people are feeling stressed about COVID-19 and worried about what the future may hold.

We have been lucky in South Australia to now have very low numbers of positive cases in our state. This is the result of closing both the national and state borders, having effective quarantine processes, having many people in our community coming forward for testing and having every single one of you reducing your travel, practicing social distancing and good hygiene. Please keep it up, we have achieved a lot, but there is still a long way to go before we can say it is over. Thank you for all that you and your family are doing.

My job is to ensure that the South Australian community stays as healthy and disease free as possible. Together with the other Chief Health Officers in other States and Territories, I have weighed up the pros and cons of children attending school.

With the very low levels of COVID-19 in South Australia along with the wider public health strategies in South Australia, I strongly believe there is no need for school closures in this state, at this time. Even when we had higher rates of disease in South Australia, only 2% of cases were school students, all of whom had mild illness and have fully recovered. I encourage families to feel comfortable and safe about sending their children to school.

However, if your child has a chronic medical condition or a compromised immune system, you may wish to consult your GP or paediatrician when deciding if your child should return to school.

I have been working closely with the Department for Education, Catholic Education and the Association of Independent Schools to make schools as safe as possible for everyone. This includes increased cleaning, making sure there is soap, sanitiser and tissues for students and staff, having protocols in place to practice social distancing, not having large gatherings of the school community and teaching children, however young, to avoid passing on germs.

We have a clear protocol for a minimum 24-hour closure in the event of a case of COVID-19 in a school, to allow us to contact anyone at risk and to undertake a deep clean. These protocols have been used six times without fail.

If your child/children are well, I encourage you to send them back to school or preschool this term. If they have symptoms of a cold or have a fever, keep them at home until they are better plus get them tested for COVID-19.

I wish you and your child/children all the very best in health and education for term 2.

Yours sincerely

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

PROFESSOR NICOLA SPURRIER
Chief Public Health Officer
Health Regulation and Protection

22/04/2020

Message to parents and carers from Professor Nicola Spurrier, Chief Public Health Officer



**It is safe to send your child or children back to school,
kindy and day care.**

Don't send them if:



They are sick.



They have a health problem and you want to talk to your doctor first.

I am confident it is safe for them to return because:



We have a low rate of community spread in SA.



Borders are still closed.



Lots of the community has been tested.



Good social distancing and hygiene.

To keep schools safe we are:



Increasing cleaning.



Making sure there is soap, sanitiser and tissues available.



Not having large gatherings.



Teaching kids to not spread germs.