



Monday 7 April 2020

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Dear Parents and Caregivers

F-6 Remote Learning – Term 2 – Parent Update

May I begin by sincerely thanking parents for their partnership and flexibility in holding Parent Teacher Learning Conversations (Interviews) by telephone. Many Teachers received an adrenalin shot as a result of the unexpected expression of thanks and appreciation shown by parents. We are so blessed to be in a Community of grateful and understanding parents. On behalf of our staff - thank you.

I appreciate parents will have many, many questions about what Term 2 will look like. Please be assured I will continue to provide updates relevant to the Junior School Community as often as further information is available and/or when the fog lifts!

Whilst there are so many things about our current earthly life that is unsure, unknown and out of our control, there is one thing that is certain. Jesus Christ died and rose again to save us from our sin. In Him we are secure. Our identity is in Jesus Christ, not in any earthly job, role, possession, timetable or thing that can be taken away from us. As believers we can move forward with certain HOPE, secure in knowing that we will one day be in heaven with Jesus forever. Our HOPE is firm, secure and guaranteed. It is in this light that we are reminded how important it is to look after our spiritual wellbeing. This is of utmost importance.

As you embrace new challenges ahead, please remember to use the tools given to us in God's Word – Ephesians 6 encourages us to use the armour of God. Ask the Lord to place it on each member of your family, as you spend time together in prayer, engage in on line church communities, engage with the Bible lessons, and engage with daily devotions the Junior School will be sharing. We look forward to offering these resources that encourage faith development and a leaning on Jesus.

We want to reassure you that we do not expect parents to be experts, or to have to sit down with their children for 5 solid hours a day. We simply ask you to "do what you can do". We understand there will be good and bad days... that's life. It's an opportunity for us all to gain a new understanding about resilience. Teachers will offer school work for children, however we ourselves have no control over what happens on the other end of the Remote Learning chain. Parent partnership will be key to the success of any heartfelt prepared learning tasks.

We have included our ELC families in this letter distribution as they are valued members of our community. The information below however is mainly relevant for F-12 families because at this point in time, the ELC will stay open unless the government advises otherwise. ELC staff and opening hours will keep operating as normal during Week 11. There are no student free days for ELC. As per F-12 families, ELC families have the choice to self-isolate from care due to COVID-19 related matters. ELC Remote Learning Packs are ready for self-isolating students who remain fully enrolled.

Please find in this update:

1. Staff preparation during Week 11
2. Teacher Teams
3. Weekly Outlines and Daily Schedules – beginning Week 1, Term 2
4. Chromebooks – Year 3-6
5. How to thrive during Remote Home Learning
6. Online books to support reading development
7. How parents can help the school
8. Wellbeing
9. When will teachers be available and how do you contact them?
10. Future parent questions
11. Unknowns
12. Closing comments

1. Staff preparation during Week 11

The busy schedule for Junior School Teaching Staff during Week 11 includes:

- **Whole school meetings (F-12)** - to include Professional Development in online Protective Practices
- **Sub-school meetings (F-6)** - to finalise daily scheduling details
- **Team meetings (F-2 & 3-6)** - to detail delivery through Seesaw and Google classroom platforms
- **Year level meetings (Fdn, Yr 1/2, Yr 3/4, Yr 5/6)** - to outline detailed unit plans for each subject and schedule assessments in preparation for report writing
- **IT development and workshoping** - upskilling in the digital tools Google Meet, Adobe Scan, Screen Castify, Google forms for marking the roll
- **Individual personal programming**
- **Home environment preparation** – to trial teacher meetings though Google Meet and online delivery in teacher home offices

2. Year Level Teams

We wish to advise that all F-6 teachers work closely in year level teams. This brings together collective wisdom, support and will ensure if any teacher becomes unwell during this time, Remote Learning will continue for all students. It also means if your child's classroom Home Group teacher becomes unwell, you may receive communication from any one of the following teachers in the year level team. Home Group teachers are:

- **Foundation:** Alison Winter, Gillie Giles, Jeannette Racz, Rachel Triplett,
- **Year 1/2:** Kristy Houston, Pip Cooper, Renae Bromilow, Tracey Alderman
- **Year 3/4:** Corrinna Smith, Denise Strybos, Susan Van der Merwe
- **Year 5/6:** Andrew Cope, Caroline Wicks, Max Dal Santo, Robyn Butler

3. Daily and weekly schedules – beginning Week 1, Term 2

From Monday 27 April, teachers will begin their normal teaching day at 8.15am with devotion and prayer.

At 8.35am (normal school bell time), the Daily Schedules will be distributed to students, via Seesaw & Google Classroom:

- **F-2 parents** will be able to view a copy of their child's Daily Schedule via Seesaw.
- **3-6 parents** will be sent a copy of their child's Daily Schedule via email so they are aware of what teachers have outlined for their children on Google Classroom.

Taking the Roll – all teachers will take an online Roll. Children will register their attendance by marking themselves present. A google form will be forwarded to each student via seesaw or google classroom. Children will click on the link (it's easy!) More details will come closer to the time.

Recording absence - If children are not going to be able to do school work because they are unwell, parents should ring Debby Scheepers on **8292 3820** or send an email to dscheepers@emmauscc.sa.edu.au If the College does not receive any communication, children will be marked absent just like a normal school day.

Weekly Outline - each Junior School year level will cover a variety of subjects throughout the week. An example is listed to the right. Please note this is subject to change. [Weekly outlines for all year levels are found in the second email attachment.](#)

| Weekly Outline | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Year 1/2 | | | | | |
| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Focus | Mark the Roll | Mark the Roll | Mark the Roll | Mark the Roll | Mark the Roll |
| Focus | Devotion | Devotion | Devotion | Devotion | Devotion |
| Focus | English | Englishx2(hw) | Englishx2(hw) | English | English |
| Focus | Maths | Maths | Maths | Maths | Maths |
| Focus | Science Inquiry | Science Inquiry | Technologies | PE | Indonesian |
| Focus | PE | Bible | Health | Indonesian | Vis Art/Drama |
| Focus | Music | Music | | PBL/English | PBL |

The Daily Schedule – Further to the weekly overview, each Home Group Teacher will provide students and their parents with a Daily Schedule outlining a variety of foci for the day.

Whilst each focus area is listed in the teacher's recommended order, the order can be changed and is flexible to fit in with family needs e.g. a family that has two children needing to share an iPad, a child who has an instrumental music lesson via Google Meet.

An example of a Daily Schedule will look like this:

Remote Learning Daily Schedule

| Term 2 | Week 1 | Day: Monday | Year: 3 /4 |
|--|---|--|-------------------|
| Daily Outline | | Description - brief | |
| Mark the Roll | Register your attendance on Google Form | | |
| Devotion | Brief description | | |
| Focus 1 | Brief description | | |
| Focus 2 | Brief description | | |
| Please continue adding rows as needed... | | | |
| Assessment | | Work to be uploaded/emailed to the Teacher | |
| | | | |

Further detailed instructions:

Devotion

Focus 1

Focus 2

etc|

Monitoring the amount of screen time - the College will be conscious of monitoring a balance between device use and exercise book use. As much as is realistically possible, we want to offer a balance of learning that includes handwritten tasks that are not screen dependent. This will support parents wanting to limit screen time. Teachers will also offer a balance of learning tasks between direct instruction (teaching of knowledge and facts), life application and inquiry learning.

Flexibility amongst device use - both Seesaw and Google Classroom are accessible from a variety of devices enabling you to problem solve in the event of a device going flat or not being usable during Term 2. Again this will offer families flexibility. In the event of a device failure, please improvise and draw or write in an exercise book.

How much do you help your child? This is the million dollar question! The best thing parents can do is ensure their children understand the instructions and know what to do – this is especially important for F-2 students who are still learning to read.

Once the learning intention is explained, children should be able to work fairly independently. Observing your children's

engagement, will offer insight into your child's independence and focus on a normal school day. IEP Students, or students who are on the watch list for Learning Support, are more likely to require additional help from parents. We want to reassure you that parents are not expected to be assisting their children 100% of the time. We would be grateful if you are able to supervise, facilitate and assist - this will be of great value to your child.

Assessment and Reports - Teachers will be assessing work and writing reports at the end of the term. Please be reassured we are assessing children not parents! It is important that all work completed by students is authentic so teachers can help them in their learning journey. It is not helpful for a child to receive an 'A' in the middle of the year because their Mum or Dad did most of the project for them, to then return to school later in the year and receive a 'C' for the next project or unit of work.

Further to this, if many students do poorly on a task, it provides excellent feedback to teachers that they have some specific teaching to address in a particular area. If parents do the work that children think is 'hard', and it is handed up to perfection, teachers will be given a false understanding of what direct teaching is needed next. One of the main reasons we assess is so teachers can be given feedback on what to teach next. This is called Assessment FOR Learning. Assessment OF Learning, is a final grade given at the end of a unit, project or test. Thank you in advance for helping your children to understand what they need to do, but not doing the work for them.

4. Chromebooks – Year 3-6

Parents are reminded that Chromebooks remain the property of the College for use by students at home. Please be empowered as parents, to add your own home rules and boundaries as needed. Children borrow the Chromebook and use it at home under your rules and timelines. Pressing Control-H in Google Chrome will bring up the history of what the student has been doing. If your son/daughter abuses your rules, then just like at school, they may lose the privilege of internet access for a day or so. At parent requests, the ECC IT Team can disable the student's Google account and reboot their Chromebook. The student would lose all access to the Chromebook until it's enabled again.

Further to this, please be advised, students are able to work offline (i.e. not connected to the internet). In this mode however, students would not be able to send and receive work from teachers. If this is necessary for some reason, teachers would work with you to provide alternative written tasks in the event you have had to withdraw privileges for child/ren pushing the limits. In all circumstances our ultimate goal is to work in partnership with parents so children can reach their God given potential in all areas.

5. How to thrive during Remote Home Learning

An extremely helpful resource to assist you and your families to nurture well-being, and to thrive during remote learning, is provided in [the third attachment to the email](#). It provides some ideas on how to structure your day.

6. Online books to support reading development

The College has taken the opportunity to register Junior School students for a number of online reading resources. This will assist children who are no longer able to change their physical readers on a daily basis:

- 1) **F-2 Readers - Reading Eggs** – College registration covers Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress for all F-2 students. Selected Learning Support students across Year 3-6 will also have access to this resource. Entry is available via the QR code forwarded to you by your child's class teacher. Please contact your classroom teacher for more information
- 2) **In2era - F-5 books** - a free online resource available until the end of May for all ELC-Yr 5 students. Access includes over 550 books: phonics readers, guided reading, traditional children's literature, mathematics, science readers, and picture books. [Please refer to the fourth attachment in this email.](#) The letter includes the College's username and password which will enable online access.
- 3) **Year 3-12 – Libby App** – the Teacher Librarians, in conjunction with the IT Team, have enabled permission for all Chromebooks to be able to download the **Libby App**. This is an App that enables parents and their children to borrow e-books from local state libraries across the state. [Please note: This collection is not curated \(or filtered by our Christian teachers\) and as such there may be reading material accessible by students that parents will need to monitor.](#) If parents want their children to access the public library e-resources, students need to download the Libby App onto the Chromebook themselves. Students use their current local library membership to log in OR they apply to become public library members. See the College newsletter for more information.

7. How parents can help the school

There are a number of things parents can do:

- 1) We ask that you simply '**do the best you can do**'. We know most parents are not trained teachers, and we do not expect parents to be. We will be praying for you, as you work in partnership with us, to assist in facilitating the continuation of your child/ren's learning.
- 2) **Please be strategic in how often you contact a teacher.** Last week, one teacher, over the course of the day, received 75 Seesaw queries from parents (and she only had half of her class away). It will be physically impossible for teachers to keep up if parents communicate over every small matter. It may be helpful to make a list of questions and consider communicating once in the middle of the day (if needed) and once at the end of the day with Assessment.
- 3) **Please be patient** in teacher response. If you are not receiving a response within 24 hours you will know teachers are being inundated with correspondence. [I have asked staff to equitably share their allocated time amongst all families.](#) If they have already answered a query from you one day, they will respond to other families before coming back to your second query in any one day.
- 4) **Please ensure your children forward/hand up assessment pieces** specified at the end of each day. Without this information, teachers will find it difficult to write reports at the end of the term.
- 5) **Have a growth mindset** – if it's hard for you, it's likely hard for the teacher – especially anything linked to IT and/or technology glitches out of our control. We would encourage you to identify the problem, label it, breathe, pray, identify if it's a deal breaker, decide if you can let it go, and/or be creative to brainstorm ways to fix it. Being intentional in the area of forgiveness, and using the fruits of the Spirit will be key here:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...” Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

8. Wellbeing

Our wellbeing team will still be available to support Junior students. Wellbeing concerns and enquiries can be answered by visiting our Wellbeing Website at <https://sites.google.com/emmauscc.sa.edu.au/wellbeing> Further to this, the Wellbeing Team will still be available for remote counselling of students. Bookings can be made online via the Emmaus Christian College website.

Kat Clark, one of our Wellbeing Counsellors, has uploaded a Wellbeing Calendar for the month of April – see the College website for great individual and family ideas. We encourage families to be mindful of children not becoming 100% reliant on devices and technology during this time. Being intentional to embrace nature play opportunities, play family board games, build cubby houses, and so on are all great ways to take thinking out of the 'device' zone.

We are aware some families have expressed concern about their children losing connections with their friends. Please keep an eye on the Wellbeing page of the Emmaus Website that has many links to ideas from organisations in the community. Further to this writing a letter, having a telephone conversation, or forwarding a message via your teacher are all options available.

9. When will teachers be available and how do you contact them?

In general, parents can expect response communication during business hours, within a 24 hour period. F-2 parents can contact the teacher via email and Seesaw; Year 3-6 parents can contact the teacher via email. For any ongoing or more complex matters, parents are welcome to email the teacher to book a time to talk via phone.

10. Parent questions

Over the first few weeks, teachers will monitor for the parents most frequently asked questions. Where parents are seeking answers to the same issues and/or are having the same problems, we will provide an ELC – Yr 6 sub-school response. I have been intentionally 'drip feeding' detailed information to parents approximately once a week, so it doesn't come all at once in Week 1, Term 2.

Some people like lots of communication; some people are overwhelmed with it! Some people are eternally grateful for the details; some say it's too much! I am endeavouring to ensure you receive information as promptly as possible. At this point in time, it is super important that parents read the details in my letters - this is now the fourth letter. Teachers will refer you to my letters, rather than provide separate answers to individual parents. This will help monitor workload associated with online traffic. When we move to Remote Learning in Term 2, this will change. Teachers will begin to individualise the details to parents themselves, as they provide individual class instruction. In general, parents can expect response communication in business hours within a 24 hour period.

It's hard to make everyone happy in the area of communication when a big family all has different preferred modes for receiving it! Each teacher will also have their own style as they navigate uncharted waters. As with any new initiative, we expect high online traffic in the first week of Term 2 and maybe also the second week. Thanks for showing patience and grace in the first few weeks as we tweak procedures. We are in a unique season that we may never see again in our lifetime.

11. Unknowns

We wish to advise all parents that the greatest unknown to us is what will happen with any external congestion of the internet. We don't know what will happen when all schools, go online at the same time, to deliver videos, online live platforms, photos and resource upload. Our platforms of Google Suite (including Google Classroom) and Seesaw, involve using a remote server. This has nothing to do with the Emmaus server. Whilst ECC itself has the best connection possible, we can't control what happens in congestion across Australia nationally. I will be very curious to see how this plays out in Week 1 next term. For any IT support please email: itsupport@emmauscc.sa.edu.au

12. Closing comments

Emmaus Christian College will begin Remote Learning on Monday 27 April at 8.35am. *Please note that Monday Week 1, Term 2 is no longer a Student Free day due to the four Student Free days Week 11.*

A lot may change in the next two weeks however this is our plan moving forward. We are monitoring the situation on a daily basis. There may be changes by the government that impact our current plan. We will respond accordingly, adjust our plans and communicate with parents what that looks like. If we end up delivering Remote Learning programs for all of Term 2, by the Lord's grace, we will be ready. Having this mindset removes uncertainty. Please be assured our desire would be to return to our usual face to face teaching at school as soon as possible, however in this time of uncertainty we don't know when this will be. As you are all called to parenting, so we are all called by the Lord to serve at Emmaus Christian College. On a daily basis we surrender our lives to Him, embracing every day as an opportunity to worship the Lord and shine for Jesus. Prov 3:5-6

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

I will provide another update a few days before the start of Term 2.

May the Lord bless you and your family at this time.

In Christ,

Helen

Helen Vonow

Head of Junior School, South Plympton (Fdn-Yr 6)

Head of Junior School, Brooklyn Park (ELC-Yr 6)