

Daily Notice

Wednesday, 25 March 2020

3:00pm



These daily updates will be sent via Skoolbag, e-mailed to your nominated e-mail addresses and uploaded to our school's website: <https://www.emmaus.act.edu.au/daily-notes/>

Dear Emmaus Parents and Carers,

Thank you for the feedback received after the first two days in the new normal of this thing we should probably start calling the *school-home-school*.

Overwhelmingly this feedback celebrated the way we are working together. Thank you for all the messages, pictures and stories of encouragement. It warmed our hearts that things are going well at home. Keep on sending those stories through and if you send us some pictures, we assume consent for it to be published in our weekly newsletter.

We are mindful of how some of you may feel anxious or stressed about the juggling of your own workload with being home schooling parents. We understand your stress and are acutely mindful of it.

Be assured that we will work with our staff to see that their expectations remain realistic and that they 'tone down' some hard and fast deadlines in their virtual classrooms.

Please find peace about how and what you do at home. It will never be the same as face to face campus teaching and expecting it to be like that, is unhealthy and unrealistic. I will attempt to address this matter a bit more in future updates but for now, just accept that if you have done your best, your children their best and the staff have done their best, that it is good enough.

Some have asked the school to provide a daily schedule or routine. The school has done that, and **every student's normal existing timetable** applies. If you don't have the timetable, you are welcome to get that from the staff member, but we strongly believe that you should keep to the normal school routines with lessons, breaks etc. This will allow for students to also get their breaks, music practice, run around times and even do some cooking and other chores for you. Use their beautiful and loving service while you can!

Today we are also progressing with streamlining the correspondence to and from school. As you will see in the next session from our Heads of School, we aim to strictly keep Google Classrooms as the place for engagement around teaching and learning and Google Meet for staff, parents and students to video call. This is also a very good avenue to get in touch with your teacher or the Assistant Head of Schools regarding special instructions for students on Individual Learning Plans. More in the next section.

The Board had a meeting last night and were fully briefed on the school's situation. They too are very mindful of the challenges that it brings to the whole community. The board is committed to current operations and approved the Emmaus Infectious Diseases Response Planning. This has already been implemented. They will soon send their own communique to you as parents which will be disseminated to you via these Daily Notes.

This is then our new situation until the end of Term 1. We are currently setting up for most of our staff to start working from home from next week onwards. Enforcing strict social distancing protocols, a 'skeleton staff' will remain on campus with me though.

Again, please don't hesitate to share stories and/or provide us with feedback. We really appreciate hearing from you. erikh@emmaus.act.edu.au.

From our Heads of School (Primary and Secondary)

We asked all teachers to spend this pupil-free week getting online content ready for Monday of next week. Most teachers have already posted content for students to work on. We have received some great feedback from happy kids and parents, but have also heard that some parents are feeling overwhelmed by what has already been sent. We understand that this is a time of adjustment for parents and students. It is an adjustment for teachers, as well.

Our aim in providing work is to provide families that wish to keep up with the regular content of schoolwork with the tools to do so. We understand that some families will choose not to access all of the work. This is a family decision, and we will respect your choices. We will continue to provide lots of learning opportunities as well as feedback on work submitted. While we cannot replicate the face-to-face environment, we want students to have as much as opportunity to learn as we can provide, in partnership with parents. We understand that you are managing work, family and school priorities and it is not our intention to add to the pressures of an already difficult situation.

In order to provide some structure, primary teachers have sent home timetables and we have asked secondary students to use their normal timetable as a guide to “what I could be doing right now”. However, this is not a hard and fast rule as we know students may be sharing devices and families will have schedules of their own. You can be as flexible as you need to be with the time schedule. Teachers are willing to arrange video chats over Google Meet with parents who have questions. We ask that students not chat with teachers individually without a parent present, in order to maintain good cyber-safety and child protection protocols. Group chats and whole class video chats will also happen as scheduled by teachers. As a parent, you can arrange a video chat by sending the teacher an email.

Practical subjects such as woodwork, art and food tech, present real challenges for online learning. We will still post work options and will try to make those practical for what you might have at home to work with. You can also choose to make those times where your child has time away from the screen, away from work, and gets some exercise instead.

Thank you for your patience with us as we all come to grips with a new way of schooling. We pray that you'll find some 'silver linings' in the clouds!

Rachel McClure (Head of Primary) and Luke Willsmore (Head of Secondary)

Message from Canberra Transport

Please see the attached letter from Canberra Transport regarding bus services.

From our Wellbeing Coordinator, Michelle Gillis

We wish to support our students during this difficult time. Our student Wellbeing Coordinator, Michelle Gillis, is available to talk to students in the presence of a parent/carer via Skype. If you wish your child to talk to Michelle, please make a booking [here](#) and enter the event code **ekrbx**.

Greetings and blessings,



Erik Hofsink
Principal



ACT
Government

Transport Canberra
and City Services

Wednesday, 25 March 2020

Dear Principal

RE: Public transport to and from school during Term 1

As you will know, the ACT Government has recently announced that all ACT Public Schools will go pupil-free from Tuesday 24 March 2020 until the school holidays.

To ensure that those students who need to physically attend either public or non-government schools are able to do so, Transport Canberra is working to deliver all timetabled bus and light rail services until the end of Term 1 on Thursday 9 April 2020. This includes:

- all Rapid and local bus services;
- all school special bus services;
- all light rail services; and
- special needs transport services

At this stage, Transport Canberra does not expect any disruption to services over this period, however, will keep you update on this situation. Any unplanned disruptions will be publicly advised on our Facebook and Twitter, and on our website at www.transport.act.gov.au.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and will update you with further advice as information becomes available.

Transport Canberra will also provide advice to schools about arrangements for bus and light rail services from Term 2, prior to the commencement of term.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at kylie.asmith@act.gov.au.

Regards,

Kylie Smith
School and Community Liaison Manager



Please print, complete and hand to Head of School during roll marking at school.

Emmanuel Attendance Note

Date:.....

My child(ren) *please enter full name:*

.....	Class:.....

Will be attending school today as I am/we are:

- Parent(s) in healthcare services
- Parent(s) in education
- Parent(s) considered as in critical services of:
.....
.....
- Have another reason (please provide):
.....
.....
.....

The reason for this attendance slip is not for purposes of judgement or to turn anyone away, but rather to collect data until the end of Term 1.

We sincerely thank you for your assistance as we work together during this unprecedented time of challenge.

Parent Name

Parent Signature