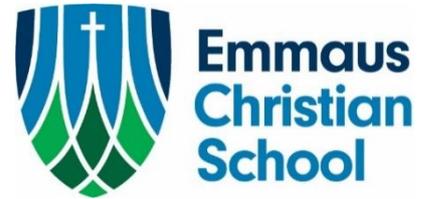


Monday, 23 March 2020; 8:30am



Dear Emmaus Parents and Carers,

There are probably more questions than answers about the announcement by the ACT Government regarding Student Free Days starting tomorrow. You can find the full statement of the ACT Minister for Education's announcement last night below my signature.

As we are still awaiting clarity on who exactly will be encouraged/allowed to come to school and who will not, I ask that you don't ring the school or ask teachers to expect answers. The reality is, we simply don't have those details.

We will however provide you with a Daily Notice from today onwards.

All Daily Notices will be sent via Skoolbag, e-mailed to your nominated address and uploaded here: <https://www.emmaus.act.edu.au/daily-notes/>

They will be clearly marked with date and time of publication.

Please ensure that you check these regularly and read them. Engagement between home and school is taking on a whole new level.

We count on you.

Let's be guided by these incredibly comforting words in Psalm 46:

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Until I post you our first Daily Notice later today, know God's grace and blessing

Erik Hofsink
Principal

Sunday 22 March - Confirmation of ACT schools' response to COVID-19

ACT schools, government and non-government, will begin pupil-free days from Tuesday 24 March through to the school holidays despite statements from the Prime Minister.

This decision is consistent with the approach being adopted by NSW and Victoria.

Moving to pupil free days now will provide schools and teachers with time to prepare for a range of learning delivery options, including online, similar to how distance education is provided in remote areas.

During this period, schools will remain open for school staff to prepare for alternative delivery of education.

The ACT school system is prepared to transition to alternative teaching models from term 2. Government schools are well placed for this shift, after the government invested significantly in devices for students and digital capability over recent years.

The ACT Education Directorate will provide options for school-age children whose parents and carers need to continue delivering essential services for Canberra during this period. The government is also making arrangements to allow vulnerable children to attend school in person. Further details of these arrangements will be provided tomorrow, Monday 23 March.

The ACT's approach will continue to be informed by advice from the Chief Health Officer. For this reason, Lyneham High School will be closed on Monday 23 March to allow for enable the school and health officials to work through a contact and containment strategy after a COVID-19 case arising connected to the school.

School principals will be providing more information to school communities as this fast-moving situation develops.