



ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL LITHGOW

Cnr Mort & Lithgow Streets
LITHGOW NSW 2790
PO Box 3026
BOWENFELS NSW 2790

Phone: (020 63 513 719
Fax: (02) 531 731
Email: stpatslithgow@bth.catholic.edu.au
ABN: 92 978 872 289

18th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, new restrictions have been put in place regarding schools in response to further outbreaks of COVID-19 in hotspot areas. We are pleased to see that our Whole School Strategy and Response to COVID-19 and current practices cover many of the new restrictions and we will only be required to make a few adjustments. Please note the following updates that are effective as of today:

- We must exercise extreme vigilance in ensuring that staff and students **do not attend school if they are unwell**
- Students absent due to illness or sent home due to flu-like symptoms **must be tested**
- Staff and students **must not return to school until they return a negative COVID-19 result and are symptom free**
- **The school must site the negative COVID-19 test result prior to allowing students and staff to return to school**
- Schools are to limit activities to within year groups and are not able to travel outside of their local community, area or zone for interschool activities
- Only external providers essential to the delivery of curriculum may continue
- Some group activities such as choirs, chanting and the use of wind instruments in a group setting are **not permitted**

In light of these announcements please note the following:

- All Yr 6 Transition visits to La Salle will be postponed
- School Choir, band and all Mitchell Conservatorium lessons on hold until further notice
- Student attendance at Parish Masses on hold until further notice
- Kinder 2021 Parent Meeting that was scheduled for 15th September 2020 postponed - a new date will be scheduled for Term 4

The Year 6 camp had already been cancelled.

We have been informed by CEDB that our Pre-Kinder program will be allowed to continue in alignment with our Whole Schools Strategy and Response to COVID-19.

The Leadership Team will also be meeting with Fr Garry soon to come to some decision around the Sacramental Program.

Self-Isolation and COVID-19 Testing

Students identified as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case are advised by the Public Health Unit to self-isolate for 14 days from the last possible day of contact with the confirmed case. If they are a close contact of someone infected with COVID-19, they should get tested as soon as possible, regardless of symptoms. If they test negative, they still need to remain in isolation until the 14-day isolation period finishes. If you live in the same household, or are identified as a close social contact, of the infected person, you should be tested again on day 10-12 of your isolation period. You should continue to self-isolate until you have completed your 14-day isolation period and have received a negative test result. If you do not live in the same household as the person infected with COVID-19, and have not been otherwise identified as a close contact at high risk of transmission, you do not need to be re-tested before finishing your 14-day isolation period unless you develop symptoms. Further details can be found here: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/advice-for-contacts.aspx>

We are also thrilled that our school has been given the COVID Safe tick and we congratulate staff, students, parents and community members for continuing to follow all recommendations set out with vigilance, care and consideration for others.

Mrs Dunleavy, Mrs Marshall and Miss Toole

St Patrick's School Leadership Team

