



Wednesday 27 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome to the 2021 school year. My name is Daniel Gooch and I am both privileged and excited to be leading the St Damien's Primary School Community this year as Principal. I hope you all have had an enjoyable holiday break and taken the opportunity to relax and rejuvenate yourselves in readiness for the busy year ahead.

Over the holiday break I have taken the opportunity to familiarise myself with the school buildings and facilities and have met with many members of the school community, including staff, parish and the School Advisory Council. I have had the opportunity to meet a number of staff as they have begun back at school, getting prepared for when the students return next week. The staff officially return to school this Thursday, where they will engage in a staff planning day and on Friday they will be taking the opportunity to develop their collegial network by participating in a team building day in Dwellingup.

Some important information for families for the start of term this year is as follows:

- **COVID-19 Restrictions:** thankfully, there has been no escalation or change in the COVID-19 safety guidelines from the end of 2020. This means the school will continue to operate under the 'Stage 4 Guidelines' for the beginning of 2021 and until further notice. Parents and carers will continue to follow the '2 Square Metre' rule and unfortunately, not be permitted to enter any classrooms in the school. All drop-offs and pick-ups of students will need to happen outside the classroom and/or school. The school will be promoting CEWA's 'Safe Hands, Safe Schools' initiative, which raises the awareness of maintaining safe and clean hygiene habits for all members of the St Damien's School community. The current CEWA School's COVID-19 Safety Guidelines can be viewed on the CEWA website on the following URL address: <https://covid19.cewa.edu.au/>
- **Parking and Pick-Up:** a lot of work has been completed by 'EASTCOURT' property developers on the southern side of the school over the holidays. I have met with the developers 'EASTCOURT' and they have informed me that all of the current works will be completed by the end of March 2021. This will include some addition street parking along Wickepin Parade and three adjacent streets to the school being sealed and completed. Unfortunately, the fence line boundary of the school on Wickepin Parade has been erected and now prevents any dropping-off or picking-up of students to take place along there. I know this will cause additional disruption and frustration to the already heavily congested pick-up period and I thank you in advance for your patience with this issue. By the end of March, we will have improved access to the school which will improve the flow of traffic and efficiency in dismissing students at the end of each day. This is an ongoing issue and one in which I will be working with the School Advisory Council, CEWA, Parish and local Council to have an improved outcome in due course.
- **Monday Morning Assembly:** we will be having a whole school assembly for students in Grades Pre-Primary to Grade 6 to start the new school year. This will take place in the Steve Dowie Hall. Parents and carers are invited to attend, but please maintain adherence to the COVID-19 safety guidelines if attending. The doors of the hall will be open to accommodate the

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presence of parents and carers. We ask that parents continue to remain outside the Hall on the seats provided.

- **School Uniform:** Students return to school this Monday 1 February and all students in Grades Pre-Primary to 6 will be expected to be wearing the correct school uniform. St Damien's Catholic Primary School has always prided itself on maintaining high standards in the wearing of the school uniform and this will be continued into the future. As the stock in the uniform shop is being replenished, it will be communicated through the school Facebook page. If you have any questions regarding the school uniform, please contact the office on 9583 2500, where assistance and advice can be provided.
- **Class Lists:** whilst families were informed of class and teacher at the end of 2020, class lists will also be posted on classroom doors in readiness for school beginning on Monday morning. Extra staff will be available around the school on Monday to support any families or students who require assistance. We ask that class lists are not photographed and posted to social media.

2021 presents us with the opportunity to achieve many new things. I look forward to spending the next few weeks meeting with families in the St Damien's Catholic Primary School community and getting to know all of the students in our care. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at school if you need to discuss any important or sensitive issues that may require my attention.

Regards,

Daniel Gooch

Principal