



March 31 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers

**STAFF PREPARATION/PUPIL FREE DAYS WITH STUDENT SUPERVISION AVAILABLE ON
THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022, & MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022**

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has impacted school communities, including St Joseph's School, significantly during Term 1. For the past two weeks, we have had around 30% of our students (80-100) absent each day, along with many staff (5-8) who are either COVID positive, close contacts or carers.

Thank you for your continuing support to adapt to the changing circumstances throughout the term and for supporting your child/ren to engage with learning at school and from home.

You will recall that the year began with additional time set aside for staff to prepare for the term because COVID-19 would cause disruption. It is now clear that Term 2 will be at least as challenging as Term 1 has been to date. The Archbishop of Adelaide and the Bishop of Port Pirie have endorsed all diocesan schools being provided with two teacher preparation days ahead of Term 2 to ensure we are best prepared to support learning continuity for our students' wellbeing throughout Term 2. The two preparation days that are being set aside for staff will be **Holy Thursday (April 14, in Week 11) and the first day of Term 2 (May 2, in Week 1).**

Considering that these two dates are fast approaching and that some families will not be able to make alternative arrangements for the care of their child/ren. Supervision (not a learning program) at no additional cost will be available for students who need to attend school on one or both days. Camp Australia: Before and After School Care (OSCH) will run as usual, and parents/carers will need to make their own bookings. Families requiring this supervision of their child/ren during school hours on the above two dates, will need to complete an online form from this link. <https://forms.office.com/r/SuvZPP47JC>

*Please note that this **Monday, April 4**, only Camp Australia: Before and After School Care (OSCH) is available to care for your child/ren as this pupil-free day was previously booked, and all staff are required on the day.*

The preparation days are intended to be used by staff to prepare adaptive teaching and learning experiences for Term 2, focusing on these lessons being readily accessed by students who are forced to quarantine or are unwell for long periods.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to our staff, students and our St Joseph's community for the way you have supported each other during this challenging time.

If you have any immediate queries concerning this correspondence, please email ros.oates@stjomb.catholic.edu.au

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ros Oates
Principal