

9 September 2020

Dear parents and carers and all members of our school communities,

End of Term 3 - COVID-19 update

As Term 3 draws to a close, our schools can be thankful they have missed the pandemic challenges faced by schools in Victoria and Sydney in recent months and that we have had a more 'normal' term than we had in Term 2. However, there is still no cause for complacency and our schools will continue to apply their COVID-Safe plans. It is timely that we revisit our mutual obligations for personal distancing and effective hygiene practices including regular handwashing and coughing and sneezing etiquette. And while there is no active community transmission at present in Far North Queensland, there is still a need to be tested if you develop flu-like symptoms.

There is also a need to review travel plans for the coming school holidays in accordance with health advice that is regularly being updated. Travel to Victoria and New South Wales is problematic for the return journey, and we must remain hopeful that the situation in southeast Queensland is contained. In some cases, for urgent family matters, travel to declared hotspots is unavoidable but we ask you to inform your school's Principal of such necessary or unavoidable travel.

We would also like to advise the extension of the automatic 100% tuition fee discount for holders of eligible concession cards into Terms 1 and 2 next year, with the discount to be further reviewed before the end of Term 2 next year. This will give families some certainty in forward planning for next year. Fee remissions are also available for those not holding a concession card but who are experiencing financial hardship. Please contact your school's Principal. Further information on fee remissions is available [here](#).

Our approach is that we will continue to support families facing tough times as the pandemic continues. Similarly, for those families whose financial circumstances are unchanged or who have suffered little financial impact we encourage you to pay school fees as required so that the good work of our schools can continue.

We continue to be thankful for your understanding and support of your children's schools as they adjust to ongoing and emerging challenges. The keys to getting this right are ongoing vigilance, mutual support, and being adaptable. We all have cause for gratitude for having a good Term 3, we should share prayers for the same in Term 4.

Just a reminder that our communications and resources relating to the pandemic are on our website [Coronavirus COVID-19](#) page and posted to our [Emergency Communications Facebook page](#). Our latest printed edition of Raise will publish this month and contains many interesting and useful articles. It will be distributed to schools and can be found on the [Raise](#) website page later this month.

Enjoy the school holidays.

Yours sincerely,



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