



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Merbein

Reg. No. 1277

22nd July, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with disappointment that I write to inform you of the decision to cancel all scheduled school camps for this year. Although official advice at present is that camps in areas outside the Melbourne and Mitchell Shire areas can proceed with caution, schools have been encouraged to think very carefully about this and whether the risk to the health of school communities is necessary.

Due to border restrictions, we had no option but to cancel the Grade 5 & 6 Camp to the Adelaide area. The Grade 3 & 4 Camp to Swan Hill, scheduled for Term Four, could have possibly gone ahead but due to the constantly changing landscape around COVID developments, as well as the onus on schools to keep all students as safe as possible, we have made the decision that we will not proceed with this camp either. As you can imagine, camps take a great deal of organisation and many venues have non-refundable deposits, particularly if the situation around restrictions changes suddenly and at the last minute. The Grade One and Two Sleepover, which was to be held on the 10th of September, will also be cancelled.

Instead of these camps, teachers will endeavour to organise, for all year levels, some activity days where we can take the students on local excursions to take part in some fun activities (this is considered safe in our community at present) with no cost to parents. At this stage, these activities are planned for the final week of Term Three and more information will come out closer to the date.

Any students who receive an allocation from the Camps and Excursions Fund will have this amount carried over to 2021, with Grade 6 students having their allocation forwarded to their respective secondary schools. An amount of money will be allocated per child from our Fee Relief pool to cover the cost of the local excursions.

We thank you for your understanding around this decision. As you can imagine, it was not an easy one given that there will be some very disappointed students! As I am responsible for the wellbeing of our students and staff, this seemed the only option in the current climate.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Narelle Gallagher