



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

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*"In loving one another through our works we bring an increase of grace and a growth in divine love."
Mother Teresa*

To All In Our Learning Community,

I am aware that you are probably inundated with communications via email and other sources at this time. The body of this newsletter contains some key points related to our engagement in learning Term 2, so far. I draw your attention to these in order to clarify our current processes.

The recent celebration of Easter and the current Easter Season contains a message of hope. Hope that comes from incredible suffering, a feeling of abandonment and a confrontation with evil. A story that has been recalled in the past weeks during Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The story of Jesus is not about a man who told us nice stories about caring and sharing. It is a story that confronts us with hatred, peer pressure, suffering, abandonment and a misuse of power. It is a story of sorrow and grief. It is a story that powerfully reveals that, in and through suffering hope is born. A story where new life and resurrection are promised.



While walking into school some weeks ago I was struck by the presence of our wire sculptures. These sculptures were the result of our Catholic learning community's reflection on a scripture passage from Matthew's gospel related to love of neighbour. Our own reflection on this scripture passage led us to consider: To whom am I called to be neighbour? As I stopped and looked at the wire statues I was struck by their future orientated perspective, that is, the future world they project for us. This is not a world of doom and gloom.

Our wire statues project a hopeful world. We have portrayed our belief in the growth of our world; the future of a world where the environment will be cared for and where we can flourish. We believe in a world where compassion is evident through the way in which we care for others. Love is offered through our daily actions and care for each other and the 'other' in the name of Jesus. We believe in a world where the vulnerable will be protected and nurtured; whether old or young, boy or girl.

Social media and the media in general may continue to offer the story of doom and gloom or suffering and hopelessness. The Christian message is however one of hope and new life that emerges out of suffering. The creation of our wire statues were, and are, a reflection of our hope for the future, a world that we can bring about together.

At this time of uncertainty let us not lose hope in each other and our Christian belief for new life and hope emerging from suffering and death. Over these coming days as you stay home may you have time to consider the wire figures that reflect our hope for the world and love of neighbour.

Kind regards

Chris

Wellbeing

The notion of home learning/ remote learning is new to all of us. It is not possible for parents to replicate a school day in the current context. For the wellbeing of all each family can only manage what they can manage. Each day it is expected that children engage in some learning. While we are providing learning opportunities and various supports for this each family is different. For some of you home learning/remote learning is suiting you at the moment for others the struggles are real – job losses, financial stresses, getting children to listen, accessing a laptop and internet has been challenging.

As a Catholic learning community we are aware of the many and varied challenges our families are facing. Our current practices are one way that we are trying to reach out to you all during this time.

Should you require further assistance reach out to us and we will attempt to assist if we can or refer you to others who can help you – we will get through this.

What's Been Happening...

Learning at Home/Remote Learning

All children have been asked to engage in learning at home/remote learning. The key message from our Premier Daniel Andrews and both the Department of Education and training and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria is **“Children who can learn at home should learn at home”**.

There is therefore limited access to our school buildings.

Learning Packs ~ Week one and two

The staff at Mother Teresa PS formulated a learning pack for all children that was distributed to the children in the final week of term one. This pack was intended to last for the first two weeks of Term 2. The content of this learning pack was explained to the children and all children were supplied with the necessary materials required to complete the learning tasks. All learners will have engaged in some of this learning since Term 2 began.

Learning ~ Week Three

This coming Monday at 9am all children will receive an email outlining the learning to be completed Monday. This learning will include Faith & Life Inquiry, Literacy and Numeracy as well as a selection of Specialist learning opportunities. Children are encouraged to attempt the tasks and to access the links to reading and numeracy tasks provided.

Each morning at 9am an email will be forwarded with the days learning.

Children are able to seek clarification of tasks by contacting their allocated learning space teachers.

Attendance Requirements

Each child enrolled at Mother Teresa PS is required to engage in learning each day and to indicate that they are doing this daily.

In order for us to mark attendance each child is required to ‘check in’ each morning by sending their contact teachers an email – ‘Good Morning Ms... I am engaging in learning today’. If your child does not check in you will be contacted during the day.

Phone calls ~ personal contact

As a Catholic learning community we have always highlighted our connection with families and children. While we remain in isolation we want to ensure we are connected as best we can. All staff members have been engaged in making contact with families via a phone call to see how you are going and how your children are going with the learning.

Staff will be calling via a non-disclosed ID so don’t mistaken us for telemarketers! We are pleased to be placed on speaker so we can talk to a parent/guardian and child at the same time.

We will continue this practice as we continue to nurture and foster our Catholic learning community.

Cultural Teacher Assistance

A huge thank you is extended to our cultural aids Ms Randa Akoo, Mrs Lara Markes and Mr Safaa Al – Kchela. These staff members are contacting our new arrivals and non- English speaking families to ensure all families can access learning opportunities.

They are also liaising with Contact teachers to ensure consistency in learning.

Specialist and Support Staff

Our specialist staff are providing a range of learning opportunities for the children which will be forwarded this coming Monday for the week ahead. Our Support staff are also assisting teachers and children with various learning needs. This also involves both email and phone contact.

Administration Staff

While we currently have a skeleton staff physically on the property our Administration staff are engaging in both on site and remote work to assist with day to day operations. Thanks to Mrs Nehme, Mrs Grima and Mrs Doria for your work.

Sacramental Preparation and Celebrations

All Sacramental celebrations are on hold for the 2020 school year until further notice.

Zoom and Other conference style applications

While there are many conference style applications available commercially we are not using one with children at this stage. Currently we are investigating a number that may suit our purpose, should this be required. While some offering may be available in a few weeks we are also mindful of the capacity of ALL learners to access these.

Social Visits – Stay at Home

Please be aware that all in our community are required to maintain social distancing. This means that we are not permitted to visit our cousins, have a play date or have sleep overs.

While this is challenging it is for the safety of ALL in our school community and the wider community. The clear message is STAY AT HOME!

Virtual Book Club

This term Scholastic are offering the families the opportunity to order books through their Virtual Book Club. Using the link below, families are able to browse and order from the catalogue. All orders made are **cashless** and made **directly** to Scholastic via their LOOP order system. Books are delivered to your home with a delivery fee of \$5.99. If you need assistance, families can contact the Scholastic Customer Service Number - 1800 021 223.

<https://scholastic.com.au/book-club/virtual-catalogue-1/>

Term Two

Tuesday 14 th April	Term 2 begins
Saturday 25 th April	ANZAC Day
Sunday 24 th May	Feast of the Ascension
Monday 25 th May	National Reconciliation Day
Sunday 31 st May	Pentecost Sunday
Sunday 7 th June	Feast of the Trinity
Friday 19 th June	Feast of the Sacred Heart
Friday 26 th June	Term 2 concludes