



ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS STRATHFIELDSAYE

School Bulletin – Thursday 16 April 2020

St. Francis of the Fields is a community united in faith and committed in action, to live, learn and grow in God's love.

Dear Families,

I share with you an excerpt from Pope Francis, Sacred Space. He is basically asking how is our life saying: Jesus is risen? This question is never more appropriate than now.

*"We proclaim the Resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moment of our life and we can share that with others: when we know how to smile with those who smile and weep with those who weep; when we walk beside those who are sad and in danger of losing hope; when we recount our experiences of faith with those who are searching for meaning and happiness. With our attitude, with our witness, with our life, we say:
'Jesus is risen!'
Let us say it with all our soul."*

In reflection I realise how fortunate I am to be part of the St. Francis of the Fields community. Our teachers have been working tirelessly through their holidays to prepare for home learning - thank you! Our parents have been wonderfully patient and supportive in what must be incredibly challenging times for each family. In the midst of this Matthew Fishley has offered to remove flood ruined fences and make safe a large fallen tree. Thank you!

Home Learning

Premier, Daniel Andrews has made it clear that all **Victorian schools should move to remote learning and care for all of Term 2**. This significant decision was made to increase physical distancing across the population and slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). **This means all students who can learn from home must learn at home**. Children of people who work in essential jobs and the vulnerable can attend school, but it would be preferable that they learn from home if at all possible.

Please know that our staff will be sending home Week 2 learning on Sunday 19 April between 5.00 - 6.00pm. It is important for parents to understand that children may complete home learning activities quite quickly. This is "ok" - please give the children time to have breaks. It is important that all children feel safe and connected to their families and friends during this time.

Teachers will have checked in with all families by the end of next week. All teachers will then be providing more home learning opportunities via a number of online platforms. Passwords will be provided Sunday evening. Week 2 will be an opportunity for families to learn more about these platforms before learning commences in Week 3. I am hopeful that intervention lessons will also commence during Week 3.



If children must attend school

For those families with children returning to school, please read the following processes carefully. We encourage you to share this information with your children, as this will help to prepare them for the changes which need to be implemented:

- Attendance** - In order to ensure adequate supervision for students, it will be necessary for parents to notify which days you would like your child to attend school via PAM. A school activity permission will be sent to you on Monday 20 April and we require you to fill out the following information by **Wednesday 22 April at 4.00pm**:
 - Name of their child/ children and their year level,
 - Essential service of parent/s,
 - Days on which the child/children will be attending school for Week 3 & 4 (April 27 to May 8).
- Arrival at school** - please have your child walk around the school to the basketball courts. A teacher will supervise all children from 8.30am. Please note: Parents are asked not to congregate on school grounds before or after school.
- Entry into class** - At 8.55am our teachers on duty (not the children's normal class teachers) will meet the children on the basketball courts and take them to their classrooms. The children will most likely be in a different classroom than their normal one.
- Departure** - all children will be able to be picked up at the front of the school in the pickup area. A teacher will ensure all children will cross the road (near the end of the oval) safely at the end of the day.
- What to bring to school** - all children, dressed in uniform, will be required to bring their lunch, drink bottle (no drinking from drink taps), pencil case, workbook and device. Please avoid bringing any toys.
- What will our children learn?** - Students will be accessing exactly the same activities either at home or at school. The children attending school will not be taught by their class teacher, but rather teachers rostered on as part of the skeleton staff requirements.
- Social distancing** - Teachers will implement measures to maximise the distance between ourselves and the children, and to reduce the risk of exposure as is reasonably practicable. This is difficult as children will be excited to see each other.
- Health** - The health of our staff, children and families is our priority. Children are not to attend school if they:
 - are unwell and unable to participate in normal activities or require additional attention
 - have had a temperature/fever, or vomiting in the last 24 hours
 - have had diarrhoea in the last 48 hours
 - have been given medication for a temperature prior to arriving at the Service

- have started a course of antibiotics in the last 24 hours or
- if we have reasonable grounds to believe that a child has a contagious or infectious disease (this includes COVID-19)

When an infrared non-contact thermometer becomes available, we will be checking the temperature of both the staff and children upon arrival. If your child becomes ill whilst at the Service, educators/staff will phone you to collect the child. Please ensure you are contactable during the session or provide educators with an alternative contact for your child.

9. **Cleaning** - The main building (that includes the Administration centre) will be where our classes are taught. By minimising the cleaning of all other areas, we will ensure high-touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each session. This will include, but not be limited to, door handles, table tops, chairs, hand basins and toilets.

10. **Visitors and volunteers** - All incursions and volunteers have been postponed until further notice. This includes Parents & Friends and School Board meetings.

Term 2 dates

We will continue to hold our Level 2 CPR training in the shed on Friday. However, we will be rostered on in small groups to ensure the safety of all.



- Friday 17 April **Pupil Free Day:** Level 2 CPR training (in the shed for social distancing)
- Monday 8 June Queen's Birthday Holiday
- Tuesday 9 June **Pupil Free Day:** Maths PD – Leonie Anstey

School Holiday Maintenance

Over the holidays we completed the following works at our school:

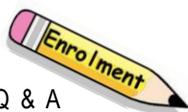
- The garden out the front of the school has been transformed.
- Our football oval has been sprayed, aerated, seeded, top dressed and fertilised. We will now keep off the oval for 3 weeks. The rain came at the perfect time!

2021 Enrolments

If you are considering enrolling a child at St. Francis of the Fields in 2021 please log onto our website as we have the required information to make an informed decision, as well as access to enrolment applications.

Our student and principal-led tours will not be undertaken in our Open Week as we must minimize people attending school. Subsequently, we intend to provide a shortened Facebook Live tour on Wednesday, 20th May at 12.30pm

We will also be unable to hold our School Information Night. Therefore, we will hold a Q & A session with our Leadership Team via Facebook Live on Thursday 21 May at 7.30pm.



Christ has no hands but yours.
Tim Moloney – Principal

Winter Uniform Changeover

Orders for winter uniform can be emailed to the school office by Wednesday mornings. These will then be available to collect from the office on Thursdays. Credit card details must be included on the order form for items to be processed. Order forms are available to download from the school website or Flexibuzz

Please note: the shop will NOT be open for face to face service.



Pastoral Wellbeing

Dealing with Disappointment.

The Coronavirus is impacting families around the world and changing how we do things on a daily basis. In many cases, it has resulted in the indefinite postponement of many special, and often long-awaited events, such as milestone birthdays, sporting competitions, school trips and family holidays.



SPECIAL REPORT

Dealing with Disappointment



Disappointment can be a tricky emotion to deal with at any age, but particularly for young people whose world has been turned upside down in a matter of weeks. Although disappointment is a normal part of growing up, adults need to remember that kids have a lot of choice regarding how they respond to it. Their response will determine the impact on their future happiness. Disappointment is considered a healthy and positive emotion that is essential to a child's emotional, intellectual and social development.

It is important to help kids manage their disappointment in order to avoid stronger emotions such as anxiety and depression. Although your first reaction may be to fix the problem, it is better to encourage them to find the words to express how they feel.

In this Special Report, parents and caregivers will be provided with some tips on how to help a child process disappointment and look at the problem objectively. We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report

https://sfstrathfieldsaye.catholic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-dealing-disappointment

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Scholastic Books

Scholastic Book Catalogues have gone virtual! Have a browse through the online catalogue for Issue 3 (link below) and you will find many great books, craft kits, gift ideas and more! Place your order through the online LOOP order system as normal and you will be contacted regarding collection of your books once they arrive at school.

Orders due in by Monday 27th April.

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

