



# ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS STRATHFIELDSAYE

## School Bulletin – Thursday 23 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,

Our children are blessed to be supported by their parents and teachers who are working tirelessly to keep them safe and assisting them with their home learning. Let us embrace the ANZAC spirit during these challenging times!

*Almighty God,  
We remember with  
thanksgiving, those who  
made the supreme sacrifice  
for us in times of war. We  
pray that their offering of  
their lives may not have been in vain. May  
your grace enable us this day to dedicate  
ourselves to the cause of justice, freedom and  
peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to  
build a better world.  
Amen.*



### Home Learning

Daniel Andrews has made **no** changes to his home learning measures - "**all students who can learn from home must learn at home.**" The only children who can attend school are those children of people who work in essential jobs and the vulnerable.

I know this is not easy and it is a significant task to ask of parents, but these are exceptional circumstances.

I want to assure you, that teachers of St. Francis of the Fields, though working remotely from home, remain



focused on the education of your child/ren. They will continue to provide support for your child as they work from home.

### Week 3 & 4 Home Learning

During Week 3 our Foundation to Year 3 students will all be using the Seesaw app on a regular basis.

We will also begin Google Meet in these year levels. It is likely our students, parents and teachers will experience some challenges in utilising these new technologies. Please ask for help and our teachers will do their very best to support you.

#### Google Meet

During Weeks 3 & 4 we will be holding Google meetings at 9.00am for all year levels.

We will **invite** all students to meet with their class teacher for morning prayer and a short check-in.

**If parents are unable to ensure their children meet at this time that is not a problem.**

These Google Meets will allow our students to remain connected and to also connect with their teacher.

Our younger students will need support from their parents initially



and there will be challenges - please be gentle with yourselves, children and teachers. If this proves problematic, simply let your teacher know via email. We will support you as best we can.

Please note: As a school, we have set the settings on all google accounts, so that students can only JOIN a Meet (as organised by the teacher), not create a Meet. Parents will have to monitor any other social interactions!

#### Intervention Lessons commence in Week 3

The parents of those students who receive Literacy Intervention (LLI), Reading Recovery or Number Intervention support will have been contacted by the intervention teachers this week. We intend to begin these lessons next week via Google Meet.

#### Phone calls

I have asked our class teachers to make phone calls to each family once over the next fortnight. All Year 3 teachers, due to the large class sizes, will be asked to make one phone call to each family member over the next 3 weeks.

This will be in addition to the many emails and Google Meets that will be held in the coming days.



#### School iPads

If your child is attending school on any day and has been using a family owned iPad, please have them bring it to school.

If your child has been allocated a school iPad for home learning but attends a day, they are asked to bring that school iPad to use that day while at school. They will be allowed to take that iPad home again at the end of the day.

Using the one device will assist the children and staff with stored usernames and passwords.

Your cooperation with this will assist with the high demand of iPads at the moment.

#### Correction of School Work

As our parents and students will understand, corrections & feedback during home learning is significantly more difficult for teachers than when working with students in class. Subsequently, teachers will formally correct 1-2 pieces of work each week. Teachers will identify the work that is to be corrected on an individual basis. Please be aware that teachers are viewing each of the wonderful student responses, but will not be commenting on all work.

#### Dongles & SIM cards

I have spoken with representatives of Catholic Education Sandhurst about accessing the "government promised dongles and SIM cards". It appears that Telstra and the government severely underestimated the demand for these products from Victorian schools. No timelines have been issued for the arrival of either the dongles or SIM cards, though the SIM cards are likely to arrive earlier.

Subsequently, in a bid to support families I have ordered 20 dongles from Telstra - unfortunately they will not arrive for another 3 weeks. I hope the SIM cards arrive before then! Frustrating!

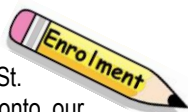
## Reporting

At this stage we are unable to advise on any changes to reporting requirements until Federal and State governments advise all three educational sectors as to any changes in the usual compliance practices and requirements.

As soon as advice is received from our governments our parents will be alerted of the changes in compliance requirements.

## 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 may not be undertaken in our Open Week if our school is closed. Subsequently, we intend to provide a shortened Facebook Live tour on Tuesday 19th May from 9.30am, if closed.

If we are unable to hold our School Information Night 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

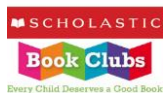
**Please note:** the shop will NOT be open for face to face service.

## 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/>



## New Arrivals



Congratulations to Kritsada and Kristy Intamanon on the safe arrival of Alfie on the 23rd March. Little brother for Archie (1S).

We also welcome Sienna Ava Tasca, born 2nd April. Beautiful little daughter for Nathan and Jess and sister for Lenny (FM).

Our third little arrival on 16th April is Sophie, a gorgeous daughter for Mat and Natasha Fisher and little sister for Matilda (2P) and Joshua (1FM).

Maree O'Connor  
School Chaplain

## Sport News

I would like to congratulate **Layla**

**Pearce & Lilly Hope** who were selected into the U12 AFL/CV Netball Academy! The girls had done about 4 trainings prior to the postponement. This is a really massive step towards Being their Best. Well done girls from the whole school community. I hope that you are able to continue to work hard during these times.

Matt Butcher  
PE Coordinator



## Pastoral Wellbeing

### Tips for maintaining mental health through COVID-19 (Part 1)

The escalating COVID-19 virus situation is leading to natural increases in stress, worry and anxiety in many people. The uncertainty associated with COVID-19, the disruption to usual routines, the need for working from home or self-isolating can have significant impacts on your wellbeing and mental health. If you or people close to you fall into a high-risk category, then your anxiety and mental health may be particularly impacted. The Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences has provided some basic tips on managing your mental health and wellbeing during this difficult time and how to manage working from home or self-isolation.

### Set a routine and try to stick to it

- It's important for wellbeing to keep a regular routine and try to keep it as normal as possible
- Get up at a regular time, eat at regular times, work at regular times, and sleep at regular times
- Make sure you make time for relaxation, exercise, fun and social contact - aim for a balance of these activities throughout the day
- Morning exercise is particularly helpful to assist with your mood through the day
- Ensure you take mini breaks to stretch and hydrate when working
- Recognise this opportunity to set a healthier routine
- If you need to take care of children while working from home, try and set working times that are optimal for concentrating with kids around and, if applicable, liaise with your partner if they are also working from home to organise schedules to optimise both your working time and demands

### Managing working from home

- Keeping regular routines around work - set regular work and break times
- Ideally, if your accommodation allows, try to create a separate workspace to minimise distractions and create a distinction between work and home
- Consider when meetings are and develop your work schedule around this - writing in the morning, meetings in the afternoon etc.
- Let go of anxiety or expectations around things that are out of your control and focus on what is achievable and what is within your control
- Set yourself achievable daily and weekly goals to work towards
- Continue meetings with colleagues, students and teams via zoom/google meets

Next week, I will include Part 2 from The University of Melbourne. We really appreciate the work that our students and families are doing at the moment. We know that this is a tricky time managing work and remote learning. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Grace Scalora

Deputy Principal - Pastoral Wellbeing

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