



ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS STRATHFIELDSAYE

School Bulletin – Thursday 30 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 this beautiful reminder that life is good.

Loving God, called or uncalled, you are present.

Open our eyes to see your hand at work, in the splendour of creation, in the beauty of human life.

Touched by your hand our world is holy, created by you, we are all holy.

Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us, to share your blessings with others, and to delight in your presence.

Amen.



Thank you

Students - Our students continue to shine even through these changeable times. I have loved seeing the children's work and their reactions when connecting with their peers and teachers; as well as when they have earned the Student of the Week award (a mum filmed her child's reaction and sent it to me - beautiful!)

Parents - Each of you has been a wonderful support during these difficult times. Your job, as a parent, is not to teach but to ensure your child remains safe. You are all doing an incredible job!



Teachers offsite - Have adapted incredibly well to the technological demands that have been placed on them in such a short space of time. At the heart of each of our teachers is connecting with their students, whilst balancing the demands of each family.

Teachers onsite - Have been challenged each day by the different technological challenges of teaching 16 children from 8 classes at the one time. Logging on and off from all apps, coupled with ICT problems, has been a massive challenge that all are persevering with.

Attendance

While our students are accessing their learning remotely, we are still mandated to record student attendance. As you can imagine, this is not an easy process for teachers to record attendance for those students not onsite. All offsite student attendance will be recorded by 2.30pm. This will allow all students to upload some work before 2.30pm.

Students will be recorded as **PRESENT** when **one** of the following is adhered to:



- Teachers hold their 9.00am google meet with their classroom and your child is in attendance at the google meet.
- The teacher observes the child's engagement of learning

tasks throughout the day.

- Parents email the teacher letting them know that they won't be on the 9am google meet but they are engaged in their learning tasks.

Students will be recorded as **ABSENT** when:

- They do not attend a google meet and they haven't uploaded work to Seesaw or Google Classroom by 2.30pm
- The teacher receives a parent notification that their child is absent due to being unwell.

All children onsite will continue to have their attendance marked twice a day as per usual.

Home Learning

At this point in time, May 11th remains the critical point and until



we receive a change in instruction from Minister Merlino, the current arrangements for schools remain in place. The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) has been clear that an update on any change will be presented to Principals immediately when that change is announced.

CECV is following the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer and working with the Victorian Department of Education and Training on developing a statewide process for all schools to transition back to in-person teaching and will provide an update once an approach has been agreed.

Week 5&6 Onsite 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 4 May and we require you to fill out the following information by **Wednesday 6 May 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 5 & 6 (May 11 to May 22).

Reporting requirements update - We are aware that parents will have questions regarding student reporting expectations for the end of Semester 1.

The existing reporting requirements state that a school must undertake ongoing assessment, monitoring and recording of all students' performance and report on performance, in writing, to parents and guardians at least twice a year.

If there is any change to the reporting requirements for Victorian schools, this would apply across all three sectors (State, Catholic & Independent) and will be communicated by the CECV.

We expect that there will be some flexibility in reporting requirements. However, until advised otherwise, teachers will prepare to report on Religious Education, English, Mathematics, and any other learning areas that have been substantially taught and assessed over this semester.

Google Meet - After receiving feedback from all teachers about the importance of the Teacher-Student and Student-Student connections that were made with the Week 3 Google Meets we have decided we will continue to hold Google meetings at 9.00am for all year levels. Please note these are invitations for all to attend. **If parents are unable to ensure their children meet at this time that is not a problem.**



Intervention Lessons commence in Week 4 - 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. These lessons will continue to be offered during Week 4.

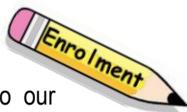
Correction of School Work - As our parents and students will understand, corrections & feedback during home learning is significantly more difficult for teachers than when working with students in class. Subsequently, teachers will formally correct 1-2 pieces of work each week. Teachers will identify 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.



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.

Pastoral Wellbeing

Tips for maintaining mental health through COVID-19
(Part 2)

Last week, I included Part 1 of The University of Melbourne's tips for maintaining mental health through Covid-19. Today I include Part 2. Some of these tips can be useful for our students however, many of them are more for the adults to maintain good mental health through this time. We are seeing a natural increase 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.

Managing anxiety

- Anxiety often involves having catastrophic worry thoughts about what will happen and focusing on uncertainty - try to notice these thoughts and step back from them, remind yourself you may be thinking of the worst-case scenario or of things you can't control, focus on what you can control in the immediate and reorient to the present
- Practice breathing relaxation as soon as you notice yourself feeling anxious
- Practice letting go of the emotions, recognise they will peak and then ebb
- Practice breathing relaxation, yoga or meditation each day, using apps or online resources
- Connect with others and discuss your fears - speak to supportive people around you via phone or social media
- Don't ignore your anxiety or blame yourself for it - recognise it, accept it as a natural reaction to what is happening, but try not to feed it, distract yourself with a nurturing activity
- Avoid media saturation about COVID-19 - keep informed (once or twice a day), but avoid the 24-hour media cycle
- Avoid trawling for health advice and checking for health symptoms on the internet
- Get your information from reputable sources and avoid social media groups sensationalising information, or armchair doctors or epidemiologists
- If these strategies aren't working, seek online therapy resources or telehealth counselling from psychologists

Managing isolation

- Make time each day to connect with others
- Schedule times for fun activities to do together with the people you are living with (kids, partner, housemates) try movies or board games and make time for relaxing together
- Make sure you stop and leave space and time to connect and share feelings
- Unless they are sick, hug your people and your fur people Listen to podcasts or radio chat shows to help maintain feelings of connection

Managing feeling cooped up

- Open windows and get fresh air
- Stretch and breathe
- Get outside and walk - while practising safe physical distancing
- Exercise outside if you can
- Get out in the garden or nature

We are hearing some wonderful stories from our school community about how they are maintaining their connections and maintaining a healthy work and home balance. We really appreciate your commitment and support of your children through this time. 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.

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