



# ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS STRATHFIELDSAYE

## School Bulletin – Thursday 14 May 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,

### Lord of All Seasons,

*We give thanks for the seasons of autumn as it has gifted us with time to watch the colours change, of the mellowing of the year, of harvest, hope and heaven.*

*As we watch the last of the falling leaves turning footpaths into slippery russet runways, may we welcome the winter season and with its imminent arrival, a renewed sense of warmth and the refuge of home more eagerly sought and appreciated.*  
Amen



### Home Learning Changes

A special thank you to our parents and carers for all your support during these past few weeks of home learning. Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) have advised that schools can begin a phased return to onsite schooling.



Schools will commence a staged return from remote and flexible learning from Tuesday 26 May 2020.

To support all school staff to prepare for the transition, Monday 25 May will be a student-free day. This is important to enable the planning necessary to ensure the successful transition back to school can be completed.

The return to school will take place in two stages. This will give the Chief Health Officer and the Victorian Government time to monitor and evaluate the effects that the staged return to school has on the increased movement of people and transmission within the community.

#### Stage 1: 25 May – 5 June

In the first stage, students in Foundation, Grade 1 and Grade 2 will return to school from Tuesday 26 May. Home learning will continue for all students in Grades 3 to 6 and Years 7 to 10 until Tuesday 9 June.

For those students in Year 3 - 6 who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of onsite schooling will

remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. Please remember, if your children can remain at home, they must stay at home.

In order to ensure adequate supervision for these **Year 3-6 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 18 May** and we require you to fill out the following information by **Wednesday 20 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 7 & 8 (May 26 to June 5).

All other students in those year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to onsite schooling, **we can no longer support their learning from home**.

#### Stage 2: from 9 June

All other year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9 June. All students will be expected to attend school as normal.



This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan. This same approach is being taken by all Catholic and government schools in Victoria.

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent handwashing.

If your **child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school**. They must remain home and seek medical advice. This is the same advice for all staff members.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice to all schools that will be made available in coming days. These will apply until further notice. Changes will include:

- Adjusted arrangements for pick-up,
- Restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students
- The way we conduct parent-teacher meetings and interviews

(Please see changes in the table attached)

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. Please let your child's classroom teacher know of these concerns - they will pass on these concerns to the Wellbeing Team.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming students back to the classroom.

CECV Requirements	School Response to these requirements
<p><b>Staggered start and finish times</b> Schools are asked to manage drop-off and pick-up times to minimise the risk of congregation at school entry and exit points.</p>	<p><b>Drop off in the morning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents will be required to use the coloured drop off zones at the front of the school from 8.30 - 9.00am.</li> <li>Children will place their bag in their bag boxes and move outside to the <u>basketball court</u> and/or <u>soccer oval</u>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pick up in the afternoon</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents will use the coloured drop off/pick up zones at the front of the school at the times allocated below.</li> <li>Children will be picked up at staggered times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.00pm - Foundation</li> <li>3.10pm - Year 1</li> <li>3.20pm - Year 2 (and older children on site).</li> <li>Older siblings will be picked up at the youngest sibling's pick-up time</li> <li>Class teachers will supervise their Year level pick up</li> </ul> </li> <li>Week 9,10 &amp; 11 - Children will be picked up at staggered times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.00pm - Fdn/1/2</li> <li>3.10pm - Year 3/4</li> <li>3.20pm - Year 5/6</li> <li>Older siblings will be picked up at the youngest sibling's pick-up time</li> <li>Class teachers will supervise their Year level pick up</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Parents, volunteers and visitors entering the school</b> Parents must enter the school grounds only when essential. If they do have to be onsite, they must minimise their time and practise physical distancing.</p>	<p><b>Parents, volunteers and visitors entering the school</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents are asked to please avoid entering the school buildings, unless absolutely essential.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voluntary testing for all staff</b> All school staff will have access to voluntary prioritised coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for a two-week period. Participation in testing will be entirely voluntary, but will be available for all staff, including those who are asymptomatic.</p>	<p>Further details on how to access this testing will be provided in the coming days.</p>
<p><b>Physical distancing and hygiene</b> Even as we return to school, it remains important that physical distancing for adults and strict hygiene measures continue to be observed. The following provides a summary of the key advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adjustments should be made to teaching and learning environments, including maintaining distance of 1.5 metres between <u>adults</u> where possible, maximising airflow, using outdoor spaces and staggering break times.</li> <li>In large schools, consideration should be given to holding staff meetings remotely.</li> <li>Attendance on school sites by non-essential visitors and parents should be limited.</li> <li>Hygiene requirements including hand washing should continue to be practised.</li> <li>Any member of staff or student who is unwell must not attend school onsite.</li> </ul> <p>Further detailed advice will be provided in the coming days.</p>	<p><b>Staff room</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only <u>20 staff members</u> should be in the staff room (80 sq m) at any one time - this includes the photocopy room (16 sq m) and Special Ed room (12 sq m)</li> <li>Staff will use other kitchenette areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 6 kitchenette</li> <li>Library resource room -</li> <li>Gr 2 rooms</li> <li>Gr 1s - 1C &amp; 1S</li> <li>Year 4HJ</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Classrooms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doors and windows should remain open where possible. Children and staff members wear warm clothing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Hygiene</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students and staff members are asked to wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds minimum.</li> <li>Hand sanitiser will be provided in all classrooms and office areas for students and staff. Regular use is encouraged.</li> </ul> <p><b>Staff Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will be held via google meet.</li> </ul>

<p><b>School Cleaning</b> Schools to be cleaned every day to the end of Term 3. The State Government is providing State schools with an extra \$45 million for extra cleaning during Term 2 &amp; 3. There has been no funding assigned to Catholic and Independent schools at this stage.</p>	<p><b>School Cleaning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are currently employing a cleaning company to clean touch points and toilets for an extra 2 hours each day. This time will need to increase.</li> <li>Teachers are asked to wipe tables with disinfectant during the day.</li> <li>This will continue for Term 2 &amp; 3.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recess &amp; Lunch</b> Lunch and Play Times Staggered</p>	<p><b>Recess &amp; Lunch</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will not stagger times as we have so much space available.</li> <li>Week 7 &amp; 8 - Spaces allocated to year levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prep - Basketball courts, sandpit &amp; playground</li> <li>Yr. 1 - Soccer oval &amp; 1 playground</li> <li>Yr. 2 - Football oval &amp; 1 playground</li> </ul> </li> <li>Week 9,10 &amp; 11 - Spaces allocated to year levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P/1 - Basketball courts, sandpit &amp; playground</li> <li>Yr. 2/3/4 - Soccer oval &amp; 2 playgrounds</li> <li>Yr. 5/6 - Football oval, quiet area &amp; memorial garden area</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Camps &amp; excursions</b> No camps, assemblies, excursions or sports</p>	<p><b>Camps &amp; excursions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No camps or excursions will be held in Term 2 or the first 5 weeks of Term 3. This will be reviewed in Term 3.</li> <li>No assemblies will be held until deemed safe - Student of the Week will continue on Facebook</li> <li>We will not participate in any sporting events until deemed safe by the Victorian State Government.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Drink taps</b> Students to drink only from water bottles, not shared taps.</p>	<p><b>Drink taps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All students must bring drink bottles from home that are filled with water only.</li> <li>Students will be able to refill bottles from the designated taps only.</li> </ul>

## Uniform Changes - Repeat

Please note ALL students are required to be in the Winter Uniform by Monday 11 May.

St. Francis of the Fields Primary School has worked hard to provide parents with a uniform that looks smart and wears well. We ask that all parents ensure their child is wearing the correct uniform.

This means:

- Long school pants or Tunics/Skirts (for girls)
- School track pants are to be worn – **no stripes!**
- Correct footwear – **runners only on sports days.**
- No scarves or beanies are to be worn whilst at school.



If parents are having difficulty making an immediate change, please write a note to Tim Moloney stating when you will be able to pick up the correct uniform.

## 2021 Enrolments - Repeat

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 in both Word and Pdf format.



Our student and Principal-led tours will not be undertaken. Subsequently, we intend to provide a shortened Facebook Live tour on Wednesday 20 May from 12.30pm.  
Our School Information Night will be held via 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

All student must now be in winter uniform. Orders for winter uniform can be emailed to the school office by **Wednesday mornings**. These will then be available to collect from the office from **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.

## PAM Permission Forms (School Activity)

Recently we have been asking you to complete permission forms on PAM to indicate if your child/ren will be attending school due to your occupational requirements. Please follow these easy steps to find and approve Permission Forms (School Activities) in PAM.

1. Open PAM on your device.
2. Click on the photo of your child (blue rectangle section).
3. Click on the drop-down arrow beside 'Profile Menu'.
4. Scroll until you find 'School Activity' and tap 'Done'.
5. Select the Permission Form to be filled in and approve.



Please note: Once you have approved and finalised a permission form, you are not able to go back into the form and make changes. Please email the school office if changes need to be made to your selection.

## Pastoral Wellbeing



### Managing your child's anxiety

By Michael Grose

When anxiety becomes overwhelming, it can impact on children's happiness, wellbeing and ability to learn. There's so much parents can do to support children and young people who are anxious.

In this report by Michael Grose on 'Managing your child's anxiety,' Michael talks about the adults in the child's life responding to a child's anxious moment effectively rather than responding emotionally. Anxious moments can also be contagious moments. For example, when your child is feeling anxious or nervous about an event, then all of a sudden you as the parent can become anxious and nervous about the event too. As adults we need to model to our children how to self-regulate in these moments. Michael talks about the anxious moment being an opportunity to teach children different tools to self-regulate.

I have attached a link to his short 7-minute video where Michael discusses his tool kit on how to self-regulate during your child's anxiety. Please feel free to click on the link and hear what Michael has to say.



<https://vimeo.com/332165986/0b6d23cae8>

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.

Regards,

Grace Scalora

Deputy Principal - Pastoral Wellbeing

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