



## Newsletter 1, Term 4, 2020

Friday 9th October

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and a huge congratulations on making it through our last week of remote and flexible learning. As a staff we have waited for this moment and there is great excitement and anticipation in the air as we eagerly await the children's arrival on Monday.

We understand that after a long absence from on-site schooling some children may be feeling a little anxious about returning to school while others may be looking forward to this experience. Reconnecting with friends, re-establishing feelings of safety, belonging and connection will be essential at this time. Engaging with familiar people and routines will provide a sense of security and will support the children's wellbeing and academic success as they transition to a 'new normal'.

Much has been achieved together over the past few months due to our sense of community, mutual respect and the presence of strong family school partnerships. Our strength as a community of faith has been evident in all our actions and interactions throughout this time.

As a community we pray,

Dear God,

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted many aspects of our lives, including our schools. Despite the uncertainties caused by the pandemic we have faith that your love guides us. We give you thanks and praise for the goodness that shines through

relationships formed, knowledge learned and memories made.

Loving God we ask that you protect all students, teachers and staff who have returned to school and give parents and carers peace about their wellbeing.

In Jesus Christ's name.

Amen

On Monday and throughout the remainder of the term please ensure you adhere to our health and safety guidelines outlined in previous communication, our aim as always is to ensure Our Lady Help of Christians remains vigilant in providing a safe environment for all children and staff.

### RETURNING TO SITE STUDENT WELLBEING TIPS

After months of remote learning and a range of COVID19 restrictions, children will be returning to school routines, classrooms, classmates, teachers, expectations and, in some cases, even a new school setting. To prepare and support students returning to onsite learning and the school/classroom environment, please consider the following.

#### 1. Talk to your children about how they feel

It is important to encourage children to discuss their feelings about returning to school.

If they feel anxious or worried, help them understand this is perfectly normal, and that you and their teachers are there to support them.

Although difficult, try not to share any anxiety you may be feeling with your children. Bear in mind that your child may be returning to a pre-existing issue from before remote learning – for example, a relationship issue, or difficulty with school work or staff – or they may be preparing for the transition to secondary school.

Try to give them a non-judgemental and supportive place to share any worries. Younger children, in particular, may not always have the words to express their feelings, so try to find a way of bringing up the conversation without putting pressure on them – for instance when you're playing with them or going for a walk. This can help them to open up naturally and identify what they're worried about.

## 2. Pack right, pack light

Bring an individual water bottle. Make sure you have checked with your class teachers about what day their specialist classes are.

## 3. Support children to understand the school procedures

Please ensure you have read the email sent earlier this week regarding various procedures in place – such as entry points, break times and hand washing routines.

It will be important for your child to understand social distancing and hygiene rules and, importantly, why they are in place.

Read school communications with your child and make sure they are prepared and know what to expect when they arrive at school.

## 4. Familiarise yourself with school procedures

You'll need to know where and when to drop children off and pick them up, as well as what parts of the school you can access.

If your child travels to/from school independently, including on public transport, you should talk to your child about getting to and from school, including observing the directions of Victoria's Chief Health Officer (ie. social distancing, group gatherings).

Your child will be expecting you at the end of the day so make sure you, or whoever is collecting them, are there in the right place at the right time.

If your child travels home independently, make sure you, or another carer, is there to welcome them home and check-in about their day.

## 5. End of day emotions

For younger children in particular, a school day can require a lot of self-regulation or compressed behaviour, which can lead to tired and emotional outbursts later on in the day.

Given the length of remote learning and new school safety procedures in place, these emotions may be hard to cope with when they return home.

It is a good idea to keep this in mind, and allow some time for 'letting off steam' by encouraging children to unwind and play outdoors.

## 6. Stay informed

Given the long absence from school, there may be a period of readjustment.

Discuss and affirm familiar routines and school expectations regarding uniform, grooming, attendance and participation to help your child reconnect with our school community.

There may be fresh challenges for your child, from working with new classmates and teachers, to coping with their work and school expectations / 'rules'.

Try to stay informed about how they are getting on – but if you are concerned, contact the class teacher.

## 7. Sleep and rest

Your children may have been getting used to some unusual hours during the remote learning period and that may have extended into the school holidays.

Make sure children are getting a good night's sleep for their return to school.

It might mean introducing some earlier bedtimes than they have had recently and limiting screen time.

A good night's rest will help them cope with the return to school and the new routines they will be adapting to.

## ICT NEWS

### RETURNING LAPTOPS TO SCHOOL

We are very excited to see that all students will return on site this coming Monday. As they will be returning to face-to-face learning, it is now time to return the borrowed devices to school.

**All students must bring in their borrowed devices on Monday 12th.** Students will take the laptop into the classroom and leave it on their desk so I can collect them personally. **Please do not take returned laptops to the office or Library.**

Some additional notes to consider:

- There is no need to clean the laptop at home; we have the appropriate spray and wipe materials on site that will not damage the device. Please do not put laptops into school bags, as they may be forgotten and not handed in.
- Students are strongly advised to carry the laptop into the classroom as a reminder to leave it on their desk.

- Please note that the quicker they are returned to school, the faster they can be put back into the classrooms for amazing learning experiences.

### CHROMEBOOKS IN CLASSROOMS

Another exciting announcement is that Chromebooks are waiting for the students in each classroom and ready to be used. During the remote learning period, we have converted 110 HP laptops into Chromebooks. Combined with the new Chromebooks purchased earlier in the year, we are very lucky to have the following setup for Term Four:

- Five Chromebooks for each class in Foundation, Year One and Year Two for group based activities.
- A class set of Chromebooks for each year level in Years Three to Six.
- A class set of Chromebooks for Digital Technology Lessons which can be used by any class at any other time.

### GOOGLE ACCOUNTS

During the remote learning period, Google made several updates to student accounts and applications that they have access to. In Term Four, there will be changes to Google Accounts of students which will be published in the newsletter next week.

We will also be updating several ICT policies and documents this term, including the User Agreement, a new Family Contact Form as well as a new Photo Permission Form in preparation for 2021. Digital copies will be sent out to families when these have been finalised and physical copies will be sent out next year.

Looking forward to seeing all students back on site on Monday!

Joss Coaley  
eLearning / ICT Maintenance Leader

## STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their birthday over the past week: **Luca G 5T, Salma M 2R, Emmanuel R 6H, Oliver J 2B, Toni K 4S, Elliot M 4S, Stefanie G 5A, Max R 6L and Rosanna B 1S.** We hope that your birthdays were memorable for all the right reasons.



## PARISH NEWS

Children's Liturgy of the Word will commence on Sunday, Oct 11th.

Children's Liturgy - Sunday @ 9.40am

Zoom Link : <https://zoom.us/j/99355766687>

The Children's Liturgy will run before the 10am virtual Mass on Sundays and will begin at 9.40am, where children and their parents/guardians will be invited to join a "Breakout" room for 10 minutes prior to Mass to read and discuss the Gospel together. Any questions please feel free to contact Francesca Mercuri ( [mercurif070@gmail.com](mailto:mercurif070@gmail.com)).

### TERM 4 DATES

Monday 12/10/2020 - All students return to site for face to face learning.

Monday 19/10/2020 - Foundation Parent Information Evening (virtual event).

Wednesday 21/10/2020 - Book Week Dress Up Day.

Thursday 22/10/2020 - Footy Colours Dress Up Day and Foundation Transition #1 (virtual event)

Friday 23/10/2020 - AFL Grand Final Public Holiday - **Student Free Day.**

Thursday 29/10/2020 - Foundation Transition #2 (virtual event).

Monday 2/11/2020 - Report Writing Day - **Student Free Day.**

Tuesday 3/11/2020 - Melbourne Cup - **Student Free Day.**

Thursday 5/11/2020 - Foundation Transition #3.

Monday 9/11/2020 - Parent/Teacher Interviews (virtual event). **Please note the change of date due to new COVID-19 timelines.**

Monday 9/11/2020 - Friday 13/11/2020 - PSG meetings.

Wednesday 18/11/2020 School Sports Activity Day to be held on-site (modified event)

Wednesday 25/11/2020 Back Up School Sports Activity Day

Wednesday 2/12/2020 2021 Planning Day - **Student Free Day.**

Friday 11/12/2020 - Year 6 Graduation (modified event).

Wednesday 16/12/2020 - Step Up Morning.

Thursday 17/12/2020 - Term 4 concludes at 1.00pm.

TBC - Christmas Carols (modified event).

Kind regards,

Maree



NOVEMBER • 2020

# Youth Choir Auditions

Looking for 7-16 year olds to join our wonderful choir program in February 2021!

Visit [theyarravoices.com](http://theyarravoices.com) for more details

