

ST. PETER'S NEWSLETTER

2A Killeen Street, Sunshine South West:



17 April 2020

Dear Families,

I write to you today with both a heavy heart and a glad heart. The feeling of heaviness in my heart comes from missing our families, our children and our staff. Mr. Mogg commented to me on Wednesday that a school is such a soulless place without our children and he is so right. But nevertheless, we know why we are doing what we are doing - and that is - "if we can learn from home, we must learn from home" (Premier Dan Andrews), so that we are able to flatten the curve and stay safe. Thankfully too, my heart is filled with hope and pride as I have experienced the support of families and staff as we have transitioned to this time of remote learning. The media continues to portray stories of disgruntled parents and of failing schools. Yet, they are reluctant to share our story of hope and support. I can honestly say that we have 100% of families who are supporting what we are doing and not only supporting, but are also grateful for the work the staff and teachers have put in during their holidays to ensure our student learning was up and ready to go come day one this term.

Our story shines brightly and I have been reflecting why our transition has been so smooth. I believe it is because in a way, we have been preparing for this for years. It's what we call the **St. Peter's way!** The work we have done in **Family School Partnerships** over many years means that we listen to, and act on, the needs and ideas of our families. In the past few weeks we have taken on much feedback from our community which has been so helpful and for this I thank you all. Four years ago under the guidance of Ms Cathy Lyons and our school technician, Mr Tim Buhagiar, we embarked on a journey of investigation as to how we could effectively enhance student contemporary learning by introducing a **one to one device program**. We settled on Chrome books and three years ago our Year 3 to 6 children embarked on this journey. How grateful you must be as parents that you chose St. Peter's as the school for your children, because today we are still the only Catholic Primary School in Sunshine to have such a program and this foresight has supported our children's transition this week to remote learning. Nor must we forget our year Prep to 2 children who have access to one to one iPads at school and now those who need them have these at home. They too are enjoying their incredible websites that our staff have created during the holidays to ensure your children have access to the learning they require.

So moving forward we will continue to work together as is the **St. Peter's Way!** Your child's teacher will continue to contact you and your child either via phone or video at the time you agreed on this week. Year 3-6 teachers will begin to hold small google meetings with your child to discuss their learning. Year Prep - 2 teachers will continue to provide valuable feedback and support to you and your child as required. The school office will remain open with one leadership member available and either Helen or Leslee there to answer your calls. If you are requiring support you can email your child's class teacher or call the school office on **8312 6900** at any time between 8.30am to 3.30pm. We are all still working from home and available to support you.

Classroom Teacher's Emails:

Prep	Jacqueline Atley	jatley@spsunshinesw.catholic.edu.au
1/2 H	Maegan Howden	mhowden@spsunshinesw.catholic.edu.au
1/2 M	Damien Murray	dmurray@spsunshinesw.catholic.edu.au
1/2 P	Adrian Platek	aplatek@spsunshinesw.catholic.edu.au

3/4 C	Sharon Campbell	scampbell@spsunshinesw.catholic.edu.au
3/4 G	Rachel Giuffrida	rgiuffrida@spsunshinesw.catholic.edu.au
3/4 Support	Katherine Attard	kattard@spsunshinesw.catholic.edu.au
5/6 P	Elloise Pellissier	epellissier@spsunshinesw.catholic.edu.au
5/6 S	Sasha Sant	ssant@spsunshinesw.catholic.edu.au

Twitter

I urge you if you are not yet following our school Twitter account, please do as families are posting the amazing work our children have already completed during week one. Twitter is a very quick way I am able to send out messages of hope and support to our families. Our Twitter handle is [@stpeterssww](https://twitter.com/stpeterssww). Classroom teachers have individual ones for your child's class as well.

Expectations

Teachers will continue to check in with your children each week or more often if required. Please remember children are not expected to work a normal school day. The Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV) has recommended the following workload for our children.

- **Year Prep - 2 Children:** Minimum 1 hour 45 min - Maximum 2 hours 30 minutes per day
 - Literacy learning (45-60 minutes)
 - Numeracy learning (30 - 45 minutes)
 - Additional Learning areas, including Physical Activities (30 - 45 min)
- **Year 3 - 6 Children:** Minimum 3 hours 15 min (Including 30 minutes of physical activity) - Maximum 3 hours 45 minutes per day (Let's keep this real people).
 - Literacy learning (45-60 minutes)
 - Numeracy learning (30 - 45 minutes)
 - Physical activities (30 minutes)
 - Additional Learning areas (90 minutes)

Please remember these times are just guidelines. Some children work quickly, while others need more time. You know your child's needs best.

Technology

Remember to be a responsible user of technology by following online etiquette and expectations. We ask you to remind your children that what applies in the classroom, applies online in terms of your behaviour, participation and completion of work.

If you need tech support you can email Ms. Cathy Lyons at clyons@spsunshinesw.catholic.edu.au.

Child Safety

Please also support the child safety guidelines, by having an adult available at all times when the classroom teacher is speaking to your child. Remember communication should always be around your child's learning. If you require any additional support, please do not hesitate to use our website to locate supporting networks such as Parenthelpline, Kids helpline or phone the school office for a leadership team member to contact you.

So in conclusion, I will quote Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Dr Brett Sutton, who reminds us why we are doing all of this;

My advice to the Victorian Government was and continues to be that to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), schools should undertake remote learning for term two.

This is because having around a million children and their parents in closer contact with teachers and other support staff has the potential to increase cases of coronavirus not just in schools but across the community.

By having remote learning, it can contribute to physical distancing and therefore supports efforts to drive transmission down.

His message is very clear. Stay safe everyone and may our God continue to guide us during these different times.

Karen Bergin



PRINCIPAL

MAY OUR CHILDREN FLOURISH

We have zero tolerance of child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and reported in line with our legal obligations, our moral obligations and our school policies. Creating child-safe environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by parishes, schools, families and communities. It is marked by collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches across policies, procedures and practices.



As a Catholic Community we respect the Wurrundjeri people, traditional custodians of the land upon which our school resides, and commit ourselves to reconciliation and justice for all in our community and nation.