



No 9: 13 May 2020

## **“Be the Hands, Heart and Voice of Jesus”**

**School Theme 2020**

### **Our Commitment to Child Safety:**

“At St Paul the Apostle Catholic Primary School we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel.”

Dear Parents and families,

### **Staggered Return to School Timeline**

Yesterday many of us would have given a collective cheer as we welcomed the announcement by Premier Daniel Andrews which provided us with a firm time-line for a staggered return to face to face teaching and learning in Victorian schools.

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.

#### **Years Prep, One & Two – Return Tuesday 26 May**

In a staggered approach, children in Years Prep, One and Two (and Years 11 & 12) will be permitted to return to school and end their remote learning on Tuesday 26 May (following a staff planning day on the Monday to enable the planning necessary to ensure that a successful transition back to school can be completed and to ensure that all safety procedures are in place).

#### **Years Three, Four, Five & Six – Return Tuesday 9 June**

Remote and flexible learning will continue for all students in Years Three – Six (and Years 7 to 10) until Monday 8 June. From Tuesday 9 June following on from the Queen’s Birthday public holiday, children from Years Three – Six (and Years 7 – 10) will join their schoolmates and return to their classrooms. (This has been confirmed for the Catholic School sector by the CECV)

#### **All Children are Expected to Attend School When Permitted**

All children who are able to go to school are expected to attend. Teachers cannot be expected to teach face to face in their classrooms each day and then provide remote schooling for parents who want to keep their children at home. Children with compromised immunity or those families with health issues will need to make separate arrangements with the school.

### **What About Their Siblings in Years Three to Six?**

It is expected that the children in Years Three to Six continue their learning from home until Tuesday 9 June unless they are unable to be supervised at home due to their parents' work commitments, compromised immunity in their family or being deemed as vulnerable. Parents are still required to fill-in the online Parents' Intention form each time.

### **Special Exemption: Years Three, Four, Five & Six Children of Teachers**

In adhering to Victorian Government directives, Victorian teachers and staff who have school children who aren't in Years Prep, One & Two are permitted to send their children to their respective schools from Tuesday 26 May to ensure that all teachers are available in their place of employment.

### **Return Date for All Teachers and Staff – Monday 25 May**

The CECV has stated that all staff are mandated to return to school for the Staff Planning Day on Monday 25 May in readiness for the children's return on Tuesday 26 May.

### **Staff Planning Day – No School - Camp Australia Program? Please stay tuned.**

Jagjit, our Camp Australia Program Supervisor and I have discussed the possibility of operating a pupil-free day program for our families on Monday 25 May. However no determination can be made until the Victorian Government offers a directive to Camp Australia regarding whether children are permitted to attend. Technically, under current restrictions, remote learning at home is still mandated for all children on Monday 25. We will inform you of the outcome once we have received formal directives.

## **Health & Safety Remains our Top Priority**

With health and safety remaining our top priority, schools will devote much time to carefully consider every aspect of our day to day school operations and practices to ensure that we are providing a safe learning environment for our children and staff.

We will ensure the continuation of thorough cleaning practices both during and at the end of the school day, the provision of hand sanitisers, anti-bacterial soap dispensers, temperature checks, adherence to social distancing (especially for adults and staff) and a change in the way we access our playground facilities.

We will enforce clear procedures to ensure that children and staff who are unwell are not permitted to attend school or following our normal protocols they will be sent home from school if they become ill during the day.

We will also need to postpone assemblies, excursions, camps and interschool sports and alter recess and lunch breaks. Families will also be expected to co-operate with proposed changes to drop off and pick up times and practices, entry into the school grounds, and staggered starting and finishing times for the foreseeable future.

As it's still only a day since the announcement, we will be able to better inform you once we have been provided with clearer directions and advice from the State Government via the CECV (Catholic Education Commission of Victoria).

I sincerely thank our SPA families for complying with the stage three restrictions regarding remote schooling from home. The decision to allow up to five people (family and friends) to visit homes from today is a welcome opportunity for families to reconnect and will boost morale as we journey through COVID19.

It must be re-iterated that, "At St Paul the Apostle Catholic Primary School we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school."

## Day Twenty One of Remote Home Schooling

As we journey through week five of term two and day twenty one of Remote Home Schooling (yes it does seem a lot longer), it's pleasing to report that a large number of our parents and children, through their conversations/emails with the teachers, have commented on the abundance of rich and diverse learning opportunities provided by their teachers and staff via our Home Learning Portal and humbly stating that they're now better equipped to support their children with remote schooling from home after the initial hiccups and frustration.

Thanks to the combined efforts of both the Home and School over this past month, our children generally are actively engaged in their learning and, despite a variety of challenges associated with learning in the home environment without the routines and familiarity of school life, families are finding a workable balance between the demands of schooling and family life.

Parents in their wisdom have introduced workable routines with some non-negotiables for their children, and our more enterprising parents have introduced a rewards system to encourage their children to complete their remote learning requirements first before going on to pursue their leisure activities. Children at times will chorus, "well everyone else is allowed to do it..." so it helps you to reply that other parents will physically remove their children's devices, toys and distractions, set time limits on the devices for game time and even the turn-off or remove the modem until their children have completed the set tasks.

Other parents and grandparents have kept to the time requirements as recommended by the Department of Education during the morning but use the afternoons for "Chill-time" where their families take a break and schedule in fun or skill building activities to build resilience, satisfaction and family harmony.

These include: following a recipe for dinner or for a tasty snack, arts and crafts (along with the clean-up and showcasing their creations) , dancing, performing arts, learning an instrument, gardening, playing their favourite board games, sharing family photos, story-telling, reading a favourite book, re-watching the favourite family video, telling unfunny jokes (like their principal) taking family walks and bike rides...just as valuable as adhering to the home learning.

The Junior Level have just introduced Monday Wellbeing day whereas the Senior Level have designated Friday as a catch-up day when children also have the opportunity to spend time exploring the Digital Discoveries and specialist pages.

## Remote Schooling at School - UPDATE

Over the past fortnight, we have greeted an average of 26 children per day here at SPA, with the number and composition of the children attending varying, depending on the schedule of their parents and carers in essential work. Each child along with a minimal number of our school staff enter through our school gates (minus their parents) with a mandatory temperature check, periodic temperature checks taken throughout the day and adhering to strict social distancing regulations while on our school grounds.

The majority of these families who require remote schooling on site here, continue to be parents who either work in the essential services including the allied health professions, education, transport, Police and Defence forces, OH&S, food, retail or at homes where both parents cannot work from home.

Please note that to satisfy legal requirements, schools will make personal contact with all parents who request remote schooling for their child at school to ascertain their reasons and then provide this information to the CECV and State Government.

## On-Site School - Parent Intentions Form.

If you have a valid reason to send your children to school, please register your intention to send your child/children to school on the accompanying **St Paul the Apostle School, Doreen On-Site School - Parent Intentions Form**. This will enable us to ensure that we have sufficient staff on duty to supervise children in attendance.

## Welcome to Digital Discoveries at SPA – Mr Frank O Fabri

Hi Everyone at SPA Doreen it's finally here!  
From all accounts, our young learners have dived headfirst into our Digital Discoveries Page at SPA.



The Digital Discovery Page contains 'extra' enrichment tasks especially designed for all SPA children who love to challenge their thinking and are willing to persevere and for those whose teachers have deliberately directed you here to extend your thinking.

You can challenge yourself in three different ways. You can:

**Explore:** Explore the possibilities. Use the web resources to inspire you.

**Design:** We need a design or a plan or diagram.

**Create:** Create, make, invent and show the world your creation!

For each activity that you explore, design or create, you will need to show your thinking. Sounds like fun and we've provided you with a Thinking routine for each page which requires you to share your thinking and your new insights. So when you need a break from your remote schooling program or would like to spend your free time enjoying a challenge, this is the place for you. I look forward to receiving your feedback and comments. **Frank O Fabri – Digital Technologies Leader/Deputy Principal.**

## SPA Video Conferencing Parent Permission Form

To support our Remote Online School Home Learning our school will be using Google Meet and Zoom in Year Prep to Six to facilitate live video calls. These calls will be scheduled by the teacher and children should check their Year Level Page on the Home School Learning Portal for details, times and dates.

To ensure child safety our video conferencing facilities allow us to have the following in place:

- Google Meets can only be created by a teacher and therefore no unsupervised Meets are possible using the school account.
- Zoom Meetings are created by the teacher and are invitation only.
- Users from outside the school are blocked from joining the call. Teachers are alerted if anyone is trying to access the video call without a school email account.
- All Meet and Zoom video calls will be recorded.
- Zoom video conferences will be invitation only and restricted to the class.
- Parents are present during all video conferences

NB: Children will not be disadvantaged if they are unable to participate in video conferencing. It is optional for parents and children. A recorded video of the meeting can be made available by request or posted on the Home School Learning page. Please visit the link requesting parent permission using the Flexi-buzz app – Video Conferencing Facility for Home School Learning – Friday 8 May. **Frank O Fabri – Digital Technologies Leader/Deputy Principal.**



## Literacy Take Home Readers

We hope that you and your family are all safe and well during these unprecedented times. We have had a few questions about Take Home Readers being available to families.

After a discussion with the Leadership Team, we have decided that due to the unknown nature of the Coronavirus and to ensure the safety of our SPA community, Take Home Readers will not be available for parents to come and collect from school.

*(What scientists have discovered about coronavirus on surfaces is that they can easily be cleaned with common household disinfectants that will kill the virus. Studies have shown that the COVID-19 virus can survive for up to 72 hours on plastic and stainless steel, less than 4 hours on copper and less than 24 hours on cardboard)*

The staff have provided a number of Reading options for families, these include Sunshine Online, EPIC, Alphablocks, Reading Eggs and World Books. Families are also accessing their own stock of favourite story books in their own homes and are taking the opportunity to share these stories with their children once again.

We are currently researching the possibilities of other rich sites, such as, Reading Australia and we will update our Online Learning Site when new sites become available. We thank you for your understanding and patience

**Helene Timmons – Learning and Teaching /Literacy Leader**

## 2020 Sacrament of Eucharist Registration Night POSTPONED

As you are aware, in preparation for the Sacrament of Eucharist, our children in Year Four and their parents within our parish of Christ the Light were scheduled to attend a Eucharist Registration tonight. However due to the current situation with social distancing and the restrictions on mass gatherings, the Registration night has been postponed until further notice.

Our children will continue their learning about the Sacrament of Eucharist on their return to school and via their Home Learning portal through our Inquiry to develop and deepen their knowledge and understanding in preparation for the sacrament whether it be later in the year or early in 2021. At this point in time it is a wait and see situation and we will be following directives from the Archdiocese of Melbourne once they are in a position to determine a course of action.

**Adriana Bownds – Religious Education Leader /Middle Team Leader**

## 2021 Prep Enrolments Open – Please Spread the Word

Due to the social gathering restrictions in place resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic, our enrolment process has been disrupted. Our Enrolment Information Evenings and all school tours have been postponed which have impacted on families at this very crucial time when families are keen to enrol their children at a school. Families will have the option to arrange for a school tour and to attend a re-scheduled Enrolment Information Night once the COVID19 restrictions have been eased. However in the meantime, we are updating our Enrolment portal on our school website to assist families to familiarise themselves with school life here at SPA Doreen.

### VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOUR

Families are invited to explore our school website [www.spadoreen.catholic.edu.au](http://www.spadoreen.catholic.edu.au) and will be able to take a virtual school tour over the coming days to experience our unique contemporary learning culture, based on a Culture of Thinking through a Christian perspective, to view our facilities and hear the opinions (unrehearsed) expressed by some of our children and staff over recent days.

### 2021 ENROLMENT INFORMATION EVENING – VIDEO link

As our Enrolment Information Evenings scheduled for Wednesday 18 March and Wednesday 29 April were postponed, we are recording an **Enrolment Information Session** from a School Leadership Team Meeting via ZOOM to provide families with the opportunity of meeting and hearing from some of our dynamic school leaders and teachers.

## ENROLMENT INTERVIEWS

Fr Martin Ashe, our Parish Priest and I will have the pleasure of interviewing parents of new families who wish to finalise the enrolment process over the coming month. Families will be invited to attend **an online interview** via ZOOM, Facetime etc., We will contact families to arrange for a time. NB: Places are reserved for Preps of current SPA families and an interview is not necessary.

NB: For children who are baptised Catholics or from a Catholic family and live within our Doreen catchment area, a place will be held for your child and confirmed at the interview. Of course we also welcome and encourage enrolments from non-Catholic families as well. If you have any further questions regarding your child's enrolment, please contact our school office team, Jacqui Picone and Maree Power: office@spadoreen.catholic.edu.au (phone 9216 2000)

## Your Prayers are Requested for Kerrie Densley

Your prayers are requested for Kerrie Densley, our much loved school bursar and office administrator, who caught us by surprise last week.

Kerrie went home early from school last Monday 4 May after feeling quite unwell and by the following day had undergone major bypass open heart surgery at the Epworth. Demonstrating her steadfast resilience and her renowned positivity, Kerrie has made slow and steady progress as she comes to term with her sudden ill health and is expected to return home today to begin her long journey back to full health and we wish her every blessing in her endeavours.

We are fortunate to have our school secretary Jacqui Picone (who incidentally underwent similar surgery this time last year) and Maree Power our finance officer to maintain the school office in Kerrie's absence.

## Head Lice Check

This time away from school has had the added bonus of keeping our families relatively well especially important as winter approaches. I'd remind parents that now is the ideal time to check your child's hair for lice and nits to ensure that we maintain a nit free environment here at SPA Doreen.

Department Guidelines (DHS Management Guidelines for Head Lice July 2001) also states the responsibilities of parents and carers are as follows:

- **ensuring their child does not attend school with untreated head lice;**
- the use of safe treatment practices which do not place their child's health at risk: Unsafe practices include: treating hair with a product that contains an insecticide more often than once per week or using it as a preventative measure; using pet flea or tick treatments; fly spray or insecticidal surface sprays and dangerous products such as kerosene.

To achieve this, it is reasonable to expect parent and carers will:

- **ensure shoulder length hair or longer will be tied back to limit the area exposed**
- regularly (preferably once a week) inspect their child's hair to look for lice or lice eggs (using conditioner and a head lice comb is the easiest and most effective way to do this);
- regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary;
- notify the school if their child is affected, and advise the school when the treatment was started; and
- notify the parents or carers of your child's friends so they too have the opportunity to detect and treat their children if necessary.

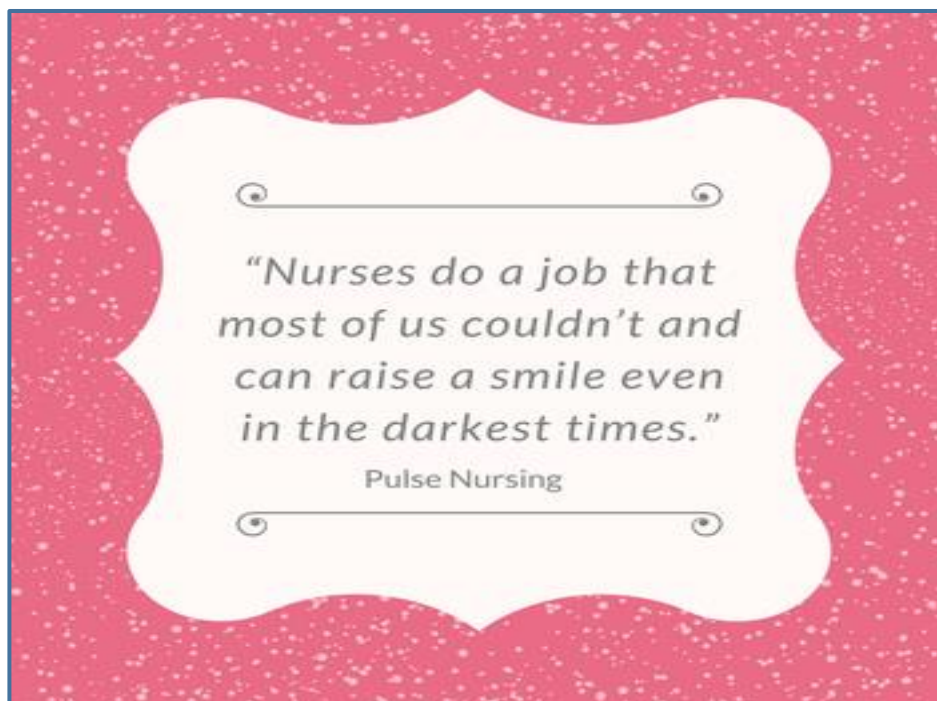
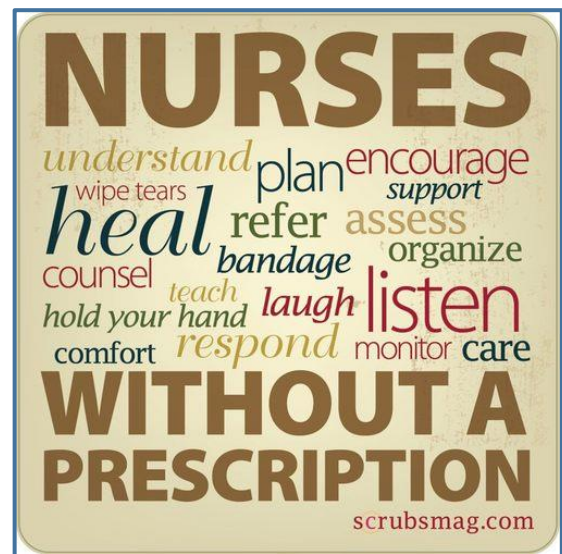
According to the Health (Infection Diseases) Regulations 2001, children with head lice can be readmitted to school or children's service centres after treatment has commenced. DHS recommend a child with head lice can be treated one evening and return to school the next day, even if there are still some eggs present.

In the case of head lice, appropriate treatment refers to treatment that removes live lice. For instance, the use of combing and conditioner can constitute appropriate treatment. If a child re-attends school with live lice they can be excluded until the live insects have been removed.

## International Nurses Day – A Sincere Thank you.

With many of our parents who are nurses currently on the frontline of this dreaded pandemic, International Nurses Day celebrated yesterday, provides us with a timely reminder for the world to reflect on the incredible care, selflessness, expertise and tireless efforts that our nurses and those in the essential services and health industries provide for us day in day out, especially crucial as we battle with COVID19.

When we think about it, nurses were there beside each of us as we took our first tentative gasp in an alien world and continue to be there for us as a constant source of comfort, wisdom and safety each day. They deserve our gratitude and countless accolades for the work they do, despite the cost to them personally and to their families as they demonstrate their unwavering commitment to their special vocation. And incidentally, these same dedicated nurses as mums will then still find the time and energy to actively contribute to our school and parish community. What angels



Warm regards,

Phil Doherty (Principal)