



St Mary's Newsletter

WELCOME TO WEEK 2

Wow what a big start back to the term it was! The incredible effort from our families and our staff has overwhelmed me. The need to support one another in our learning partnership is more important now than ever! I must express my gratitude to the families who offered thanks, praise and positive feedback for the teachers, they absolutely deserve it. The teachers would far prefer to be in the classroom however in the current circumstances they are doing a wonderful job at bringing learning into our homes.

Over the first three days of term I met with the teaching teams daily to check in and problem solve around what was working and what adjustments needed to be made. We were collectively overwhelmed at the ICT skill set of our learners that grew over each day. This is a remote classroom, one they have never had to take part in and the improvements they made in such a short time were astounding. By the end of the week the majority were navigating and using the skills taught by our teachers very well.

The teachers and staff have recognised the difference in ability for the junior years compared to the senior. This week the junior team has made modifications that will allow more time and ability for families to complete at each child's pace. We do still encourage all families to have their Prep - Year 2 learners online every morning so we can track attendance and ensure the connection to their peers and their school. Alternatively, parents can log their child's attendance on PAM a week in advance.

We recognise that this way of schooling is challenging for everyone but especially for those who too have to work from home. St Mary's is striving to maintain a school routine and connection with all of our learners. We have put in place timetables and schedules that mirror our school morning so that when we return to school little transition is required. We have also had to adhere some non negotiables. For example, taking learner attendance and being prepared to assess and report on the learning that takes place while we are remote schooling. For those reasons we thank everyone for setting up great routines in your homes. We are trying extremely hard to support as much of the learning as possible.

The media continues to overwhelm us all with information and schooling is always a hot topic. I will continue to inform our community to the best of my knowledge around schooling, but at no stage to date have I received any information that school will return to normal this term or at any earlier date. I hope this information supports families in planning and establishing their new learning routine.

During this time, some people may experience challenges with employment and finance. If any family is experiencing any financial concerns particularly around schooling, please feel free to contact me.

God Bless - Jasmine Ryan (Principal)



DATES AHEAD

- 25th April - ANZAC Day
- 25th April - Week 2 Challenge due
- 28th April - Virtual Assembly released
- 6th May - Book Club Due



St Mary's is a Child Safe School.

We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

P&F Chocolate Money

We ask those families who have not yet returned their P&F chocolate money to do so ASAP. This can be done via direct deposit.

BSB: 083-543
Acc No: 457171993



St Mary's acknowledges and pays respects to the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet: the Barrapa Rappa People, and pay respects to elders both past and present.



Local Power Outage

We are aware that in some of our local areas there will be a power outage for a day or two over the coming week. Some areas will be affecting for greater times than others. We will resume our remote learning timetable as scheduled but are aware some people may not be on because of this, or finish a session earlier.

If you are affected for a greater period of time, please simply follow the tasks on your learning grids for the mandated times.

Mandated Daily Curriculum Times:

Prep - Year 2:

Literacy: 45 - 60 mins

Numeracy: 30 - 45 mins

Other areas: 30 - 45mins

Year 3 - 6

Literacy: 45 - 60 mins

Numeracy: 30 - 45 mins

Other areas: 90 mins

PE: 30 mins

A PRAYER

A Prayer for the ANZAC's

God of love, We pray for all ANZAC soldiers both past and present. We give thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war. We pray that their labour and sacrifice may not be in vain, but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. That the liberty, truth and justice which they sought to preserve may be seen and known in all the nations upon earth. This we pray in the name of the one who gave his life for the sake of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



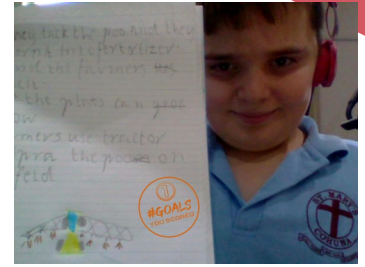
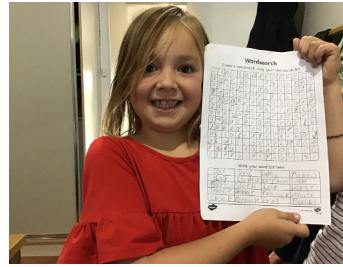
Families flexibility for Remote Learning

Some families who are experiencing clashes of timetables and working from home commitments are welcome to follow the teachers timetable at times of the day that suit you. Each day the timetable, links, tasks and resources are placed on Seesaw by every teacher. We do love seeing everyone face and interacting, however if this is too difficult you may self direct.

If this is something your family would like to opt to do, please inform your child's teacher so that this approach can be recorded for assessment and reporting purposes.

Week Two Challenge

Week #2 Challenge -LEST WE FORGET- This week we commemorate the ANZACS. St Mary's is extremely supportive of our local service men and women and we hope to continue to do this this year even under these circumstances. This weeks challenge is to create something that shows our respect and gratitude to all service people. It may be a piece of art, a poem, a homemade poppy, reading an Anzac story, or making Anzac biscuits, you may even have your own service with your family and take photos or make a short film clip. Be as creative as you like and remember this is a way that we will show our continued respect of their sacrifice! This challenge is due on Saturday 25th April @ 12:00pm as we would like to share our tributes on Facebook to mark our community support! *Lest we forget.*



OUR LEARNING

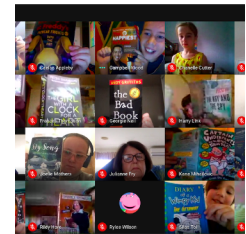
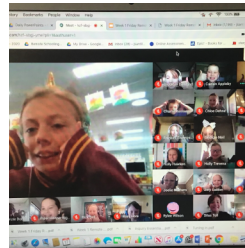
JUNIOR TEAM

Well done to all the Prep - Yr 2 learners that participated in the remote learning this week. The Junior team is so proud of every single one of you. You are all superstars! We want to give a massive THANK YOU to all our parents. We appreciate everything you are doing to support your child/ren in their learning. You are amazing. The Prep learners have focused on identifying characters and describing the characters of The Gruffalo.

The Prep learners all created their own character that could be inserted into the story, they used descriptive words to explain who the character was, what it looked like and what it does. The Preps are continuing to learn new sounds and search for items around their homes that begin with these letters. The Year 1's and 2's have done an absolutely amazing job this week learning lots during our first week of our Remote Learning adventure. They have worked so hard to listen to all of the instructions, learning how to mute their microphones and respond using the chat, taking part in meetings, using Seesaw and lots of other skills. The Year 1 and 2 learners have been identifying nouns within our books, whilst learning new skills on our devices and getting into our new routines, including RATs, individual conferences and whole group learning. We have become very tech savvy, and are getting better and better each day! We have been collecting data, and using this as a chance to reconnect after our break. Boy oh boy, it's been great to see each other this week and hear each and everyone's voices.

SENIOR TEAM

The Year 3-6 Learners are superstars! They have all adapted to Remote Schooling fantastic and are learning amazing new ICT skills each day. The Year 5/6 Learners are learning about making personal connections to texts and are enjoying listening to children's podcasts. In writing, the learners are creating information texts and learning about collecting facts. In mathematics, we are exploring different types of shape in our world. The Year 3/4 Learners... Thank you to all the parents for setting up a learning space at home and accepting the new school life. We appreciate your support and it makes a huge difference. This is what's been happening in our homes:



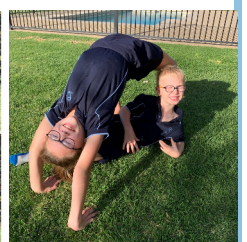
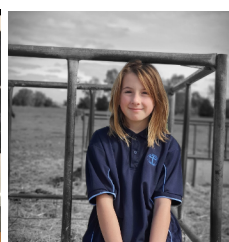
BIRTHDAYS



- Tyler Jones - 21st April
- Camm Nicholson - 21st April
- Declan O'Mahony - 23rd April

WEEK ONE CHALLENGE WINNER

Thank you to everyone who entered our week one challenge! The photos and creativity were gorgeous! The staff found the judging very hard. Our first place prize goes to Nate Hipwell! Second - Brooklyn Bowland, Third - Paddy Quinlan and our family winners are the Powers. Prizes are coming your way!





NDCH

Northern District Community Health

NDCH-your first port of call in the pursuit of good health!

Looking after your Mental Health during Coronavirus PART 1

Don't ignore how you feel

Acknowledge your feelings. It is normal to feel worried, anxious, stressed, sad or uncertain right now. We are all in this together – but some of us might be struggling more than others. Talk to someone or write down how you feel.



Do something you enjoy & relax

Do something at least once a day that you enjoy. This will be different for everyone. Take time to relax. Don't feel bad about having 'me' time.



Connect

It is hard for most of us to not see our friends or family during this time. Stay connected by calling, messaging or video calling them. You could even write a letter. Continue to be social.



Mindfulness & Meditation

This can help to reduce fear and anxiety. There are many free apps available. SmilingMind have created a special 'Thrive Inside' program on their app.



Accurate Information

Only read information from an accurate website – www.health.gov.au. Others may not have the right information. This can cause fear and panic for no reason.



For the most up to date information about coronavirus please visit: <https://www.health.gov.au/>

BOOK CLUB IS COMING!

We're really excited to have **BOOK CLUB** running this Term, but it will look a little different! It will be a **virtual catalogue** rather than the printed catalogues you're used to receiving.

To order from this issue go to:

[Scholastic.com.au/Book-Club/virtual-catalogue-1/](https://www.scholastic.com.au/Book-Club/virtual-catalogue-1/)

Place your order on LOOP as normal and orders need to be in by:

6th May 2020

We will receive your order here to our school like normal. Once your order arrives, we will contact you to arrange for collection:

All parents will be contacted via phone when orders arrive

If you have any questions or queries, please contact:

Julianne Fry - jfry@smcohuna.catholic.edu.au



Even though this is a virtual catalogue, we will still receive 20% of your order value back in Scholastic Rewards to use to purchase additional books and resources for our school!