



# St Mary's Newsletter

## WELCOME TO WEEK 6

We are more than half way through the term and there is finally a light at the end of the tunnel! I do recognise that there would be very mixed emotions about returning to school and for some children there is still three weeks to go before returning. I am sure some families are excited as well as apprehensive. Please know that the staff of St Mary's cannot wait to have everyone back at school and all interventions necessary are being put in place to ensure the safety of our health.

The staff continue to work so hard to keep learning flowing and consistent. I thank those families who have been vigilant in ensuring their child(ren) are in attendance for all learning sessions. The transition back to school will be a lot easier for those who have kept learning routines in place. I have personally experienced the challenges of home learning, the emotional roller coasters, the frustrations but also observed great resilience and acceptance of uncontrollable life experiences in my children. I do hope that our families can hang in there for the coming weeks and keep the incredible support and value of your children's learning as a priority.

In readiness for our return St Mary's is currently planning safe transition back to school. Every learning space will have sanitiser, hand washing will be increased, school drop off and pick up will be staggered and using several entries. Parents will not be able to come into learning spaces or the school grounds at this stage. Our sick bay will be operational for bumps, band aids and bruises but any child who states they feel unwell will be sent home immediately. It would be advisable for families to start talking with your children about these changes to school life, particularly our younger learners who enjoy mum or dad dropping them off in classrooms.

As the week unfolds we will finalise plans of our return and I will communicate the finer details to families. We will be requiring families who borrowed desks and chairs to return these this Friday (22nd May), in readiness for the following week. Can we ask that they are cleaned prior to returning. Also, our Year Prep - 2 learners devices must be returned on Friday of this week so that Miss Spence has ample time to reconfigure and connect them back to the school server.

If anyone has any questions or concerns that they would like to discuss please feel free to contact me.

*God Bless*

*Jasmine Ryan (Principal)*



## DATES AHEAD

- 22nd May: Desks and chairs and junior devices to be returned to school
- 25th May: School Closure
- 26th May: Prep-Yr 2 return to school. Virtual Assembly
- 29th May: School Closure
- 4th-5th June: Prep-Yr 2 testing and assessment days
- 5th June - All Year 3 - 6 devices to be returned to school
- 8th June: Queen's Birthday - no school
- 9th June: Yrs 3-6 return to school



St Mary's is a Child Safe School.

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

### Canteen

Although some learners are returning to school next week, there will be NO canteen until Wednesday 10th June when all learners are back at school.  
Thankyou

## A PRAYER

Traditionally May is considered Mary's month, where we focus on praying to Mary, one way to do this is to say the Rosary. In a recent letter Pope Francis stated "It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view. For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of "May".

So this week, perhaps we could say a decade of the Rosary, where we say

1 x Our Father

10 x Hail Mary's



### Week Six Challenge

**Week #6 Challenge** - LEGO MASTERS As a family create and build something unique and original out of lego or any block materials you have at home. Submit photos of your creation by Friday @ 3:30pm to Jasmine ([principal@smcohuna.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smcohuna.catholic.edu.au))



Parent Access Module

LOG INTO PAM

Please remember to log your child's attendance



*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.*



#### WHAT TO DO?

Complete the "First Stage - Application for Enrolment Form" found on our website. Return ASAP

**NOW ENROLING FOR 2021**

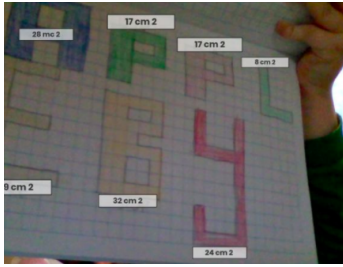
#### WHAT'S NEXT?

A "Second stage Enrolment Form" will be sent to families

Schedule a family meeting and active tour

Return all documentation relating to enrolment by 28th August 2020.





# OUR LEARNING

## JUNIOR TEAM

The Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 learners have been enjoying their remote school this week. The learners have been creating character descriptions as part of their narrative writing. They can describe what the character looks like and how it feels. The Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 learners have been learning to identify adjectives in the text and apply them to their writing. All learners have continued to make connections to the text and comparing two texts. In maths the learners have been learning the addition strategy of count on. The prep and year 1 learners have used counters and number lines to support them in counting on. The year 2 learners have been using digital dice to help them add multiple numbers together, using the counting on strategy.

Well done to everyone that has participated in remote schooling this week. Your quality of learning has been outstanding.

We can not wait to see you all at school in 1 weeks time. We are so excited to have everyone back in the classroom and to share our learning with one another.

## SENIOR TEAM

Our Year 3 and 4 learners are enjoying listening to class novels by Roald Dahl. We are using our class novel and other texts to build our vocabularies and use visualising skills to build deeper comprehension.

In Mathematics, we are doing lots of times tables and number practise. We are using our RRR to be respectful to ourselves, others and our learning environment. Learners are enjoying the challenge of earning RRR while remote learning!

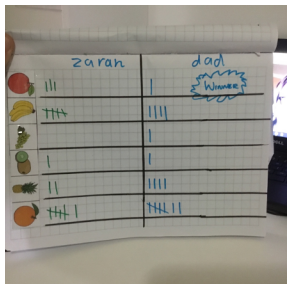
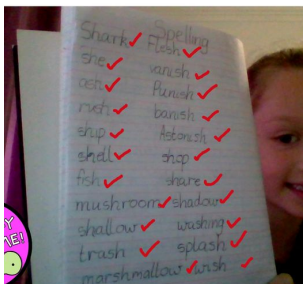
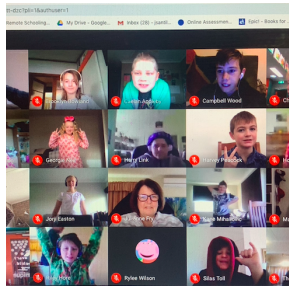
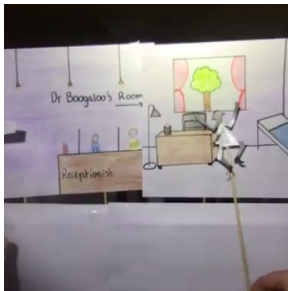
Our Year 5 and 6 learners are visualising using their senses to help understand texts. They are enjoying listening to the story 'A Different Land' by Paul Jennings read by Miss Santilla to learn different strategies when reading aloud. In Writing, we shared our information texts in our learning conferences to have feedback on completing our texts. In Mathematics we have started a project to build an obstacle course. This is going to help our learning in calculating area and perimeter.

We can not wait to see you in three weeks. The teachers will be back next Monday organising your learning and learning spaces in preparation for your return. We are thinking about lots of learning that lets us learn with our friends!

## BIRTHDAYS



- Campbell Wood - 18th May
- George Toohey - 20th May
- Mitchell Gray - 21st May





## FREE WEBINAR RETURNING TO SCHOOL - PREPARING FOR CHANGE



Be part of an interactive hour where you get the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents/carers, teachers and others who support individuals on the autism spectrum.

As COVID-19 restrictions ease, schools across the country are managing the return of students. For students on the autism spectrum, returning to a school environment that may look, feel and operate very differently, may present its challenges.

We invite you to join us for a Q&A webinar where we will have the opportunity to explore some of the questions and concerns you may have about your child's return to school.

There are two different session times to choose from.

Tuesday 19 May, 2020 – 12:00pm AEST  
Tuesday 19 May, 2020 – 7:30pm AEST

All of our webinars are free and participants that attend receive a certificate following the completion of the webinar.



To register for this webinar and find upcoming ones, visit [positivepartnerships.com.au](https://positivepartnerships.com.au)

## COVID-19

### Screening and Assessment Clinic



Help us flatten the curve. Please give us a call and book in to be swabbed.

#### STEP 1 – PHONE FIRST

Please contact the Triage Clinic by phone to discuss your symptoms.

This service is available  
Monday to Friday – 9.00am to 12 Noon

 03 5451 0200



#### STEP 2 – SWABBING CLINIC

This service is available by appointment only, in Kerang, Cohuna, Boort, Pyramid Hill and Koondrook.

Monday to Friday – In the afternoon

This is **NOT** a standard Medical Clinic service. Walk up appointments are **NOT** available.

**You must phone first.**

Anyone who has any symptoms, no matter how mild, such as a runny nose or scratchy throat, is encouraged to get a test.

### Common Symptoms of Coronavirus are:

#### Temperature

Including fever or chills



#### Breathing Difficulties

Including breathlessness or sore throat



#### Fatigue or Tiredness



#### Cough or Runny/Stuffy Nose



#### Headache or Body Aches and Pains



#### Lack of Taste, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhoea



## Transitioning Back to School

**Anxiety:** It is normal to be anxious or worried about children going back to school – for both children and parents. Let your children know that there are lots of health professionals working hard to make sure that it is safe for them to return. Health professionals are monitoring schools and the current situation.



**Feelings:** Ask your children how they are feeling about returning to school. Check in each day, as their feelings can change. We know that some children will not want to go back and it may be hard for some parents. Let them know that it will also be a time that they can see their friends. Your school will be able to support you.



**Connect:** Talk to other parents. Check in on how they are feeling. Let them know how you are feeling. We are all in this together, but each of us have our own situation and feelings too – remember to be kind to others. Try to support and care for each other during this time.



**Routine:** Try to start getting back into routine – or into a new routine. For example, going to sleep earlier, waking up earlier, getting dressed, not staying in pajamas all day. This will be different for everyone. If you start now, it will be easier next week – but know that not every day will go to plan, be kind to yourself and your family.



**Take Care:** Remember to take care of your own and your children's mental health. There have been many changes during this time – going back to school is another big change. Find something that works for you and your family. For example, still do things you enjoy, take deep breaths when you feel anxious, practice mindfulness using the SmilingMind app, go for a walk, talk to friends and family.



[www.ndch.org.au](https://www.ndch.org.au)