



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 3
Week 2
23rd July 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the St Francis school community for the wonderful support that has been given to our staff as they have transitioned from face to face learning to remote learning for the children (and parents) as they commenced Term 3. You have been patient and understanding throughout this time and this has been very much appreciated. I would also like to congratulate and acknowledge the great work that parents are doing in their role as "teacher".

Throughout last week and this week all class teachers have endeavoured to contact every child's parent to welcome the children back to school. The teachers have found this to be a wonderful experience as they were able to connect with the students of their class and support their parents.

Supervision will continue to be provided at school for those families who need this support (essential workers, vulnerable students, or those who are not at home and have no other supervision options). Thank you for carefully considering whether your family falls into one of these categories. The students being provided with supervision at school are completing exactly the same work as the children who are at home and this will continue until lockdown is lifted.

The lockdown has impacted extra-curricular activities that were planned for start of this term. When we "get to the other side" of this lockdown and are able to reschedule our school events in a safe environment we will do so as soon as possible.

The recent events with the spread of the Coronavirus have in some way impacted us all. It can be really hard to know what to say to your child to respond to their questions when there is uncertainty. Here are some tips:

Give children reassurance and extra emotional support.

Reassure children of the steps being taken to keep them safe. Explain that people from all over the world offer help in times of need. If they are old enough you can mention that the government and hospitals are also doing everything possible.

Be honest with children.

Children are better able to deal with a situation when they understand it. They need information just like adults do. Begin by asking your children what they already know about the situation. Most likely, they have already heard about it on TV, at school or from friends. However, a lot of their information may be inaccurate. As they explain what they know, look for misunderstandings or frightening rumours. Tell the truth and do not try to mislead them "for their own good."

Monitor children's media exposure. Keep young children away from frightening images they may see on TV, social media, computers, etc.

Be mindful of what children hear you say in regard to the pandemic. Keep your language positive and hopeful. Pray. As a Catholic community we recognise the importance of prayer in times of need.

Please find two links that may be helpful to you as a parent.

- Advice for Parents about how to speak with you children about the Coronavirus. Watch video:

https://schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-coronavirus

- Helping Kids Who Are Worried About Coronavirus.

<https://www.counselorkeri.com/2020/03/14/talk-to-kids-about-coronavirus/>

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE (cont...)

We are vigilantly following the advice from the Health Department, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta and Catholic Schools NSW in our deliberations to reduce the risk of this pandemic at St Francis Primary School. The support, patience and understanding of the community will ensure that we continue to meet the challenges of this time.

Lord, we thank you for our families, our parents, grandparents, and others who love us and care for us are so precious. They are holy gifts from you, Lord. Help us to appreciate them and to pray for them every day. Help us to be merciful, like you, and to be thankful for our families. Inspire us to listen, to be helpful, and to treat each other with respect. We know this is pleasing to you, dear loving Lord Jesus. Amen.

It is in partnership we can achieve great things for the children in our care.

Jenny Bellenger

Principal

SCHOOL FEE ACCOUNTS TERM 3

Due to current lockdown restrictions the posting of the Term 3 school fee account has been delayed until further notice. When we are aware of the new posting date, we will also advise you of the due date for payment. Please contact the school office if you wish to discuss any issues regarding your account or any other school fee matters. Thank you for your understanding, we will keep you updated on the reschedule date.

ATTENDANCE

During this lockdown period, if your child is unwell or for any other reason and is unable to participate in learning at home for the day, please inform the school via email so that we can record the correct attendance for your child on that day. If your child is attending school on any particular day, the school day is as usual **8:55am – 3:00pm**. Parents are required to be punctual so that we can manage the students arrival and the need to supervise the students at school with limited staff. **Parents are reminded that during lockdown do not walk into the school grounds or into COSHC.**

SOME COVID REMINDERS

- Students should not attend school if unwell, even with mild [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Any student with any COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and should not return until they have received a negative test result and are symptom-free. In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurring symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.
- Anyone who is unwell with COVID-19 symptoms is strongly encouraged to get tested immediately and self-isolate until a negative result is received.
- Please continue to monitor the [Latest COVID-19 updates](#) for locations where there may have been exposure to COVID-19 and adhere to the advice as appropriate.

Novel coronavirus symptoms:



fever



sore throat



cough



shortness of breath

WASH YOUR HANDS

