



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School

Term 1, 26th March 2020. No 8

Parish Priest: Fr Florentino (Boy) Galdo

School Principal: Mr Bob Brown

Deputy Principal: Mrs Carmela D'Amato

RE Leader: Mrs Helen Howden

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Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Friends of St Matthew's,

As we finish off the term, I would like to say thank you to all of our families, staff and students for your patience and understanding as we have been working through this uncertain time. It has been great to hear that so many families have been to school to pick up some activities, homework books, readers or Chromebooks so that they can continue their learning from home. Just a reminder that the activities that have been sent home are **OPTIONAL** where the children do not have to do these. These were sent home in case the children needed something to do or wanted to keep practicing what they've already learnt.

The teachers have been working extremely hard these last few days organising work for the students *in case* we need to move towards Distance Learning for the students. They have been learning about new communication tools, practicing new skills, recording books, writing up schedules and much much more. Thank you for understanding that they needed to have this time to do that.

We have also been working on a Distance Learning policy for parents and students which we will share with you if we need to.

Just a reminder to everyone that at this stage, the staff will be returning to school on **Tuesday 14th April** and the students return on **Wednesday 15th April**. Should we hear anything different, we will make sure that we let you know. We will keep you all informed throughout the holidays.

A MESSAGE FOR THE STUDENTS: Starting this afternoon, we want to wish you all a very safe and healthy break. Make sure you listen to your parent's instructions and that you stay home when they tell you to. It is very important that you keep washing your hands and stay at home, no matter how boring it may get! We hope you all enjoy the break.

To all the families, enjoy the time with your families and stay healthy. We want to see everyone return no matter when.

Happy Easter everyone.

Bob Brown - Principal.



A Prayer for our world

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.”

At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with the families of those who are sick. As they worry defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

Some Information about Coronavirus for families

Below are some helpful links to help you explain social distancing to your children.

Time to Come In, Bear: A Children's Story About Social Distancing

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA_SsZFYw0w&feature=youtu.be

This is a great way to explain to children what social distancing means. Please watch it together.



Leading the way for children during the Coronavirus pandemic

A great article for parents to help with questions from children

Download

Download the SkoolBag App

The SkoolBag app is the easiest way keep up with school events, last minute notices, newsletters and all school communications.

5 Easy Steps to Staying Informed



SkoolBag is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minute notices, newsletters and all your school's communications.

1. Download SkoolBag

Search SkoolBag in the Apple App or Google Play Store, download the FREE app:

SkoolBag: School Communication



2. Create an Account

Follow the prompts to create your account in seconds.

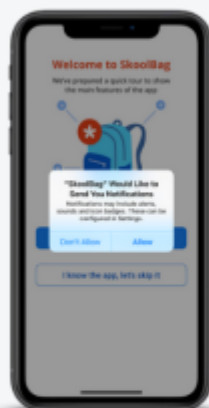
3. Add your School

Type your school's name and press enter. Tap the plus icon to add.



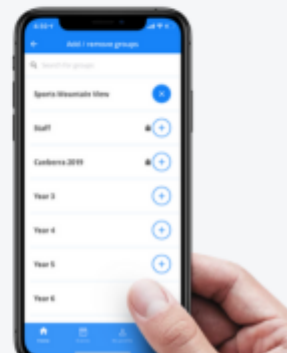
4. Allow Notifications

Ensure you Allow SkoolBag to send you push notifications when prompted.



5. Subscribe to Groups

Select Year Groups / Sports Teams to appear in your feed.





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