



St Matthew's Catholic Primary School

Term 2, 24th April 2020. No 9

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,

A big HELLO to everyone! It seems like absolute ages since you were all at school (5 weeks for most) and I know we are all missing each other. These uncertain times will pass and we will all be back at school and the Coronavirus will be behind us. I hope this Newsletter finds that all our families are keeping safe and healthy and coping with this necessary isolation. Hang in there.

This week's newsletter is simply to cover what has happened regarding your children/our students going online and what to expect going forward, some extra invitations to participate in and some recent news.

TIMELINE SUMMARY:

Firstly, let me go through our timeline:

You will recall that the **last week of Tem 1** was cut short when the Premier Daniel Andrews declared the holidays would be starting on **Tuesday 24th March**. Each child was given a large amount of activities to be completed if they wanted to. This was not compulsory as the children were on an early holiday break. Some chose to do them, others didn't. The activities were also for the first four days back in the first week of Term 2, which was **last week commencing Tuesday 14th April**. This gave all the Staff time to refine all that had to be done to make sure the students online learning was going to function properly.

All Years 3 – 6 students were given the opportunity to take home their individual Chromebook. Some chose to, others had their own device at home. It is usually mandatory that the Chromebooks stay at school permanently, but due to the circumstances, it was necessary for this to occur.

For those families in Years PREP – 2 who did not have any access to devices, the students were also able to take home any spare Chromebooks or use their own device from home. This meant that all students had the capability to be online.

This week, commencing on Monday 20th April, saw the introduction of two to three activities being assigned to the students. This was to ensure that all students knew exactly how to use either the Seesaw classroom app OR google classrooms. This week also gave the students, parents and teachers the opportunity to practice checking in daily and make contact with each other and iron out any technical difficulties. The Teachers, Mrs Carfi and Mrs D'Amato spent some time each day ensuring that all students were connected.

The majority of students and parents have had contact with their teacher multiple times this week, which has been great for teachers, students and parents.

Next Week commencing Monday 27th April all specialist classes will be commencing, and will resemble what a typical school day would look like. Specialist lessons include – PE, Italian, Art, Digital Technologies and Music.

STARTING TIMES

It has come to our attention that some students have been sleeping in until 10 and 11am each school day. All students need to be out of bed just as they would be normally when we are all back at school. Get up at 8am, have breakfast, get dressed, ready to start school at 9am sharp like a normal school day. I think they might need to go to bed a lot earlier. I am sure that would help.

REMINDERS: APPS YOU NEED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH

SEASAW FAMILY App – This is for all levels for all families. The Teachers can communicate (make announcements) to their families in their class

SEASAW CLASSROOM Is the portal where the work comes through for **Grades P – 2**

GOOGLE CLASSROOM is the portal where the work comes through for **Grades 3 – 6**

REMINDER: PARENT PORTAL

This was sent home last Friday through the Skoolbag App for students and parents. It is a one-stop shop for extra activities for students and also it has valuable information for parents. Please get on and enjoy the extras that it has to offer. There will be regular updates so check it when you can.

REMINDER: SKOOLBAG APP –

I know a lot has been sent home since last term, but please read everything. Then you will know exactly what is going on at St Matthew's. It is our communication lifeline with parents and students. If you do you will know exactly what is going on, what extra suggestions or Fun things to do are available for you

and your children.

MANY THANKS TO OUR PARENTS

On behalf of the Staff, I would like to extend our many thanks to so many of our parents who have been working hard at home with their children, helping them and joining in some of the fun activities. We realise that it must be tough as many of you are working from home as well. Keep up your wonderful efforts.

NICE MESSAGES

Many thanks to those students and parents who have sent through lovely comments to our teachers. They are truly appreciated. The Teachers, Leadership Team, Admin staff and Mrs D'Amato are working well beyond the call of duty, during and after school hours, being creative and innovative to make sure their students are up to date and getting their work done. If you haven't sent them a message please consider doing so by email or in your responses with your work.

PHOTOS & GOOD NEWS STORIES:

Thank you to all those students and parents that sent in their Coronavirus Posters and activities they were doing during the holidays. They were absolutely fantastic. Well done everyone!

If you think you have a cool workstation at home where you have been doing all your work take a photo of you at it. If you have a pet/s take a photo of you and your family and your pet/pets. If you have a Good News Story – New Baby or maybe a new pet send them in to Mrs D'Amato and she will post it in our Skoolbag App. (cdamato@smfawknernth.catholic.edu.au)

NEW BABIES:

Yes two of our staff members have recently had their babies.

Congratulations to

MRS NATALIE VALSTRO & BABY BOY –MILANO

MRS SOZZI & BABY BOY– MICHAEL STEVEN

You will be glad to know that both Mums, Dads, older sisters and baby boys are all doing really well.

Hopefully we will be returning to school earlier than originally predicted so please stay at home, be safe and keep healthy. I look forward to seeing all your smiling faces when we return. I miss you too! Take care 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.

Your FAWKNER Community Newsletter

<https://mailchi.mp/6078297ffbb4/your-community-newsletter-2644769?e=1c453b754b>

Please have a look at the Fawkner Community Newsletter.

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.

SkoolBag 



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