



St Catherine of Siena

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NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 1

April 17th 2020

Easter Reflection

Lord Jesus, you appeared to your disciples after the resurrection and filled their hearts with joy when you said to them 'Peace be with you'. May the peace of your presence abide with us and in the heart of our world. You promised to be with your disciples, to the end of the world. Dwell in our midst today and remain with us always. Remember us as we minister to your people. Purify our hearts with your truth and guide us in the way of your peace. Amen.



Dear Families,

Welcome back to Term 2 even though it is drastically different to what we are normally used to. Everyone in the community is working under unusual circumstances and many of you are also juggling work in a home environment while trying to care for and supervise your children and their school work. As I write this we are 3 days into Remote Learning and all of the challenges this brings. Some of you have had good experiences and sent through some positive comments, some have faced technological and scheduling difficulties and have offered appropriate feedback while other comments have not been particularly helpful in navigating these issues. We are all, children, families and staff, doing the very best we can in these early days and as we work through the issues encountered things will get better. This is a challenge for us all, I welcome your feedback on the challenges you are facing and ask for your patience as we endeavor to improve on what is already in place.

To support families with the difficulties encountered already, as well as the ones we have identified, we will be working on the following in the next short time;

*trying to organise ICT devices for families without these so that all children have access to the same learning

*implementing a form of real time video conferencing - I am in current conversation with Catholic Education Melbourne about appropriate guidelines and permissions for the use of this.

In the meantime all children on a device will have access to work posted by their teacher by 9am each day. This work will be reviewed by the teacher who posted the activity. Some work will be approved by the teacher while other items will have more detailed and constructive feedback. Children and parents can contact the teacher throughout the day and if they can't respond within normal school hours the same day they will respond as soon as they can the next school day.

This week we have had about 22 children onsite each day with that number to increase to about 35 next week. These children are in groups of up to 10 and are working on the same work that is set online for all students. It is important to remember that the Premiers guidelines are that any child who can stay at home should be at home. If your circumstances change and you no longer need your child to be supervised at school please email me to advise me of this so that we can change our lists and rosters accordingly.

Even though we have moved to Remote Learning at Home it is vital that children are still all attending to their school work as they would have done if they had been at school. **Attendance at school, remote or otherwise, is a requirement for all children.** Teachers will be checking Seesaw/Google/Hapara each day to see who is completing and posting their work. Children who do not post any work will be followed up via an email to a parent or guardian. If we are unable to contact you this way we will phone you to ask about your children and the reason they have not been online doing their work.

God bless and stay safe

Carmel Marantelli

PRINCIPAL

Students who are onsite

1. Need to be brought in and collected from the gate near the Prep rooms
2. Will have access to sanitiser at school
3. Need to bring a drink bottle each day as the drink taps are unavailable
4. Will be doing the same work at school as those working offsite at home
5. We have minimal staff at school so children will not have their own teacher supervising them
6. Will not be in their own room, they will be set up with a device to use and then use that same device in that same room each day they are at school
7. Tables, surfaces, etc are sprayed and cleaned by the supervising teacher at the end of each day

Students working from paper packs

1. Paper packs for the next week are collected from school on Friday afternoon between 2:00pm - 3:30pm
2. Work that is completed is also dropped off at school on Friday afternoon
3. Tubs for dropping off packs and collecting new packs will be on a table near the gate at the hall toilets
4. This work will not be exactly the same as the work posted online but will be as close as we can get it
5. If possible all children should at least be watching their teachers morning video on their parents smartphone
6. If you cannot get Seesaw on your smartphone to view this video please call the school office on 9743 2166

Working at home on a device

1. Children will be accessing learning posted on Seesaw/Google/Hapara each day, this should be posted by staff by 9:00am
2. Children should be posting work they are doing for their teacher to view
3. Can arrange the time when they are engaged in learning to suit their home situation
4. Children and parents can contact staff for support via an email or message on Seesaw

Wellbeing Tips

This is a time of uncertainty for us all and will add possible stressors to an already stressful situation. Children will have been looking forward to coming back to school to see friends and participate in a normal school routine. Parents also would have been anticipating working in their usual location with colleagues or returning to your usual home routine with children back at school; for us all this has now changed and while some may adapt easily others will find this more of a challenge. In addition to what is mentioned on the last page, the list below would be useful for all members of the family in maintaining personal wellbeing during this period of isolation and social restriction.

1. Create a daily routine with boundaries between work hours and break times thus setting clear boundaries between the two
2. Make a to-do list of tasks for the day
3. Ensure you take regular breaks, you may wish to use 'break apps' to help you remember to take breaks. For Nth Melbourne supporters out there try #HuddleUp by Brent Harvey on Youtube
4. Stay in regular touch with friends and family - write a letter, make a phone call, if allowed video conference
5. Remind yourself we are doing this for an important reason and it is temporary



Parish Of Melton Office

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Office Open: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 3pm

PLEASE NOTE:

As of 19th March 2020 **ALL MASSES** (including Sunday services) have been SUSPENDED until further notice due to the COVID-19 direction issued by The Bishops of the Province of Victoria. We will continue to provide updates via the Parish website and Parish Facebook page as they become available.

w: <http://pol.org.au/melton/Home>

 Parish Facebook Page

 Parish Instagram Page



Welcome Back to Term 2

The staff have put together a video to let you know that we are all going to miss seeing you everyday and we want you to know that we are thinking about you and are here for you if you need us.



Click [here](#) to watch the video



Click [here](#) to see Miss Marantelli's message



St Catherine of Siena **Facebook Group**

Join our '**St Catherine of Siena Melton West - Official**' school Facebook Page and stay in touch with what's going on at school.



Please Note the planned School Closure Day for Friday, 24th April has been CANCELLED. This will now be a normal Remote Online Learning Day.

2021 Prep Enrolments

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we will not be holding an Enrolment Information evening or School Tours.

2021 Enrolments are now OPEN!

Do you have a child starting Prep in 2021??

Please send an email to office@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au or click the link [here](#) to request an enrolment pack.

When lodging an application copies of your child's Birth certificate, Immunisation certificate, Baptism certificate and signed Parent-School Code of Conduct must be attached along with any VISA or legal documents if these are applicable.

All siblings of current students as well as all new applicants are required to have an enrolment application lodged. Once restrictions have been lifted you will also be required to attend an enrolment interview with our Principal Carmel Marantelli and our Parish Priest Fr Michael Moody.



Tips for Parents/Caregivers to Support Learning From Home

Stick to a routine



Even though school has changed to a home learning format, treat school days just like you would if your child was physically going to school. Try to get up and ready at the same time everyday and eat a healthy breakfast ready to start the school day at home.



Set up a workspace



Try to find a spot in the house for your children to work in. they will achieve their best work in a comfortable, dedicated space that is strictly for learning. If possible, this space should be a different place than where they normally play games or watch television or eat.



Limit distractions

As best as you can, make sure when your child is working, that they can stay focused on their schoolwork. This might mean turning music or the TV off during work time, it might mean not using social media throughout the day. This will mean different things to different aged students and, as a parent you should give direction about this to your children.

Encourage physical and mental activity and exercise every day



We don't want your children sitting in front of their devices or at their desks for long periods of time.

Schedule time for lots of breaks;

- Short brain breaks where they can focus attention on something other than work and enjoy healthy fruits or vegetables.
- Longer breaks to eat snack and lunch and to go outside for some fresh air and a play.



Term 2, 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
20 Week 2	21	22	23	24	25 ANZAC DAY 	26
27 Week 3	28	29 *St Catherine of Siena Feast Day	30	1 May	2	3
4 Week 4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Mothers Day 
11 Week 5	12	13	14	15	16	17