



NEWSLETTER

ST MONICA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL: MRS MELISSA BEGGS
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: MRS JACQUI VAN DER BURG
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: FR CLIFFORD D'SOUZA

Week 210 Term 2 31st March – 13th April 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

What an unusual fortnight we have experienced.



As many parents have opted to continue their children's learning at home the school has become a much quieter and different space. The learning however continues whether it is completed at school or home. The teachers are continuing to provide your children with the resources they need as we navigate this change to our regular routines and procedures.

As adults we are often concerned how best to answer the questions children ask us in times of disruption. Below is a link to the Macquarie University's Lighthouse program about "How to talk to your children about coronavirus." I recommend reading this very useful article.

[How to talk to your children about coronavirus: top 10 questions answered](#)

In our newsletter this week you will find a new section about Remote School Learning. At St Monica's we strive to continue to deliver quality learning experiences to our students during these ever changing times. For many parents and carers, supporting your children to learn at home for extended periods of time will be a new experience. To assist with this process, we have begun with some "Frequently Asked Questions" that may be helpful.

On a different note, some exciting news for our school community!

As you know the front playground has long been an area of concern. It often is either too wet and muddy to use or a 'dust bowl' with an uneven surface to run on. The



Catholic Education Office Parramatta has agreed to fund a replacement of this grass with synthetic grass which will include two areas where we will have soccer fields marked out for student use and an area for passive use near the front path and the hall. More details will come after the tender process is complete next term.



Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.
Mrs Melissa Beggs

Principal

*"When we stand before the crucified Jesus, we see the depth of His love,
which restores our dignity and sustains us." # Lent
Pope Francis@Pontifex*

What's Happening at St Monica's

Diary Dates	
Wednesday April 8	Last Day Term 1
Thursday April 9	Pupil Free Day – No school for students
Friday April 10	Good Friday
Sat/Sun April 11/12	Easter Saturday Easter Sunday
Monday April 13	Easter Monday
Monday April 27	School Returns for Term 3

Please be reminded that Thursday April 9 is a pupil free day. There will be no student supervision.



Happy Birthday to the children celebrating their birthday in APRIL.....

Flynn B – 4W	Noah S – 1B
Benjamin M – 5W	Brayden Y – KB
Christian S – 5W	Isla L – 1B
Addison M – 3B	Therese P – 6B
Mia G – 3B	Alayna V – 5W
Ceanna H-T – 2B	Alyssa S – 2W
Jacob C – 4B	James P – 6W
Michael B – 6b	Max S – 2W
Grace F – 6W	Rhys T – 5W
Zoe N – KB	

PROJECT COMPASSION

Congratulations to the winners of our Project Compassion competition:

1st Place – Sofia Pisani KB

2nd Place – Joel Scicluna 3B

3rd Place – Isobel Campbell 1W

Emily Houchin 6B won the guessing competition!

Thank you to everyone who donated money to the Project Compassion boxes, we raised \$230.



WINTER UNIFORM CHANGEOVER

As of Monday 27th May children are to return to school for Term 3 in Winter Uniform. If the weather is still warm, they will be permitted to wear their summer uniform for the first 2 weeks but will be required to be wearing Full Winter Uniform by Monday 11th May. Winter uniforms are available for purchase from Brynorms: 2/328 Windsor St, Richmond 2753 or the second hand uniform shop each Thursday morning between 8.30-9.30am located in the old cottage on Bourke St.

Important notice from Brynorms Uniform shop

Due to the Coronavirus, we have had to make some difficult decisions regarding the operation of our retail store in Richmond. For the protection of both our retail staff and customers, we will be **temporarily closing** our retail store from 4.45pm on **Friday 3rd April 2020**. We have also suspended our Saturday trading - effective immediately. At this stage, we are anticipating closure of the retail store until after the Easter school holiday period, and re-opening reduced days per week after this, while social distancing measures are recommended. We will keep you updated on opening dates and hours as this information becomes available.

We appreciate the inconvenience this will cause our customers, and plan on remaining open until next Friday, to give parents and school uniform stores the opportunity to purchase any uniform items they require before our temporary closure. Our retail store phone and email **will not** be attended during the closure period.

In this section of our newsletter we will address aspects of Remote School Learning as we navigate our way through this challenging and different means of schooling.

We hope the following guidelines and information will assist you as you continue transition to learning from home.

What will the school provide?

The school will provide learning sequences for students to complete throughout the day. On Wednesdays this term hard copy packages have been made available for parents to collect. These have also included "how to" guides, help sheets and information to assist you navigate Google Classroom and other sites such as the Premier's Reading Challenge, Studyladder, Maths prodigy etc. All classes will have access to Google classroom from this Wednesday.

How can I communicate with staff?

Staff will be available Monday - Friday, between school hours 8:30am - 3:00pm.

- Email the school: stmonric@parra.catholic.edu.au.
- Students can ask questions via Google classroom if they need assistance throughout the day.
- You may also wish to book a phone conversation with a teacher.

How should I structure the Learning Day for my child?

Although we understand it may be difficult to follow a strict schedule or timetable it is important to set up a familiar learning routine so your child understands it is not holiday time. This needs to suit your home context with consideration to the availability of space to work and the number of devices available. Please remember to contact me on mbeggs@parra.catholic.edu.au if you need assistance with this.

Every home is different and what may work for some may not work for others. It is also recommended that families keep the normal morning and bedtime routines as this will help your child adjust to the new learning experience.

This may resemble the following:

- wake up and have breakfast. (modified getting ready for school routine)
- dress for school (for younger students it may be beneficial to dress them in their uniform/ or 'learning' clothes, to help them see it is school time)
- move to the specific learning space in the home or set it up if it is a multi purpose section of your home such as the dining room table. It is important to set the expectations on day one as it will help your child adjust and maintain their learning.
- Say a prayer together. (Prayers are said every day at school to begin the learning day. The children are used to this)
- Children commence the learning.
- Breaks from learning
- Complete the learning for the day - conclude with an 'End of Day Prayer' such as, Dear God, thank you for today; for my work and my play. Thank you for my family, my classmates and my teachers. I look forward to more learning tomorrow. Amen

Where will children record their learning responses?

- In Google Classroom
- Using the exercise book brought home from school. (If your child has not brought this home, a book will be in this week's pack available from Wednesday)
- On the worksheets provided in the class packs

Should I give my child(ren) breaks from their learning?

Yes!!

These should include regular breaks for activities, eating and drinking. During activity breaks it is important that students get up and move away from the computer screen or booklet and move around. These times are often referred to as 'brain breaks' and allow the brain to make connections in the learning. During a school day your child has two regular breaks (recess and lunch), where they are encouraged to participate in physical activity. They also have 'crunch and sip' a mid-morning short break to 'refuel' for learning. These breaks should be encouraged to continue so your child can re-energize their body. This may include; playing with their siblings, dancing to their favourite song, star jumps or simply walking around the house.

What if my child needs assistance with their learning or if I have a question?

If your child needs assistance remember you are not alone - the staff will be available to assist and answer your child's questions within a reasonable period of time and this is how:

(Please be mindful that at this stage teachers are fully engaged in teaching classes so the response will be as soon as practicable)

- Email the Class Teacher at stmonric@parra.catholic.edu.au
- Contact the teacher using Google Classroom
- Phone the school to leave a message for the class teacher to contact you. The school phone number is 4570 3700.

Communicating with your child about their learning

To assist the Catholic Education Department of Parramatta has provided the following advice to help you communicate with your child about their learning:

We encourage you to start and finish each day with a simple check-in. These check-ins need to be a regular part of each day and start straight away. Not all students thrive in a home learning environment; some struggle with too much independence or lack of structure and the check-ins help keep them on track.

In the morning, ask:

- What are you learning today?
- What are your learning targets or goals?
- How will you be spending your time?
- What resources do you require?
- What support do you need?

In the afternoon, ask:

- What did you learn today?
- Acknowledge one thing that was difficult. Either let it go or come up with a strategy to deal with the same problem if it comes up again.
- Consider three things that went well today. Why were they good?
- Are you ok? Do you need to ask your teacher for something? Do you need help with something to make tomorrow more successful?

How do I ensure Cyber Safety when my child is working on devices?

Teachers have discussed with their class, safe and appropriate use of information and communications technologies when they are using devices at school. It is important that during this period of home learning that we maintain safe and responsible use of technology therefore normal school protocols and privacy information must be observed when students are communicating with peers and teachers. This includes using Google Classroom to ask questions to the teacher or peers about the learning task.

Please reinforce with your child that it is not a social networking tool. All correspondence through Google Classroom must be related to learning. If it is used inappropriately the teachers have an option of muting individual children until they demonstrate that they understand and adhere to the protocols.

Please follow the links for more information around how to ensure your child is cyber safe.

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/pre-teens>

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>



Welcome to Google!

What is this Google thing my children are telling me about??....

All of our classes are currently being introduced to their Google accounts.
(set up, monitored and protected by the Catholic Education Office.)

What is the Google account and what are the benefits?

Google is a cloud based platform used in a variety of different ways.

With this account your child receives:

An email address which is also their log in.

Unlimited storage to save all their work

Access to many different free apps such as:

Google Doc - similar to Word

Google Sheets - Spreadsheet like excel

Google Slides - Like Powerpoint

Google Classroom -

This is a place where our teachers can post work for their students and allows them to collaborate and share ideas with other students in their class.

It is a safe place because it has been created by your teacher.

Only their teacher and students in each class can see the posts.

All of these free apps pictured below can be downloaded from the app or android store.

If your child uses an Ipad or tablet, it is recommended that you download the following free apps to their device.



(At this stage your child will only use Classroom, Gmail, Drive, Docs and Slides)

Unlike the Microsoft versions you can access these Google apps with any internet browser from any computer PC or MAC, iPad or Tablet.

All work will never be lost.

The Catholic Education backs up all data regularly.

It also means all content is monitored and can be tracked.

Every child has a username and own password.

Children must keep this information private.

Children in K-3 have been given a unique password.

Years 4-6 have assigned their own passwords.

Parents are welcome to help children with their work at home, but they are not permitted to use a student's account or write a message (send an email) to another child.

Please refer to the Acceptable Use of Technology Policy which means everyone must take special care in writing appropriate messages and reporting anything which concerns them.

Children are encouraged to ask themselves 3 questions before posting into the Google Classroom or sending an email:

Are these comments helpful to the class?

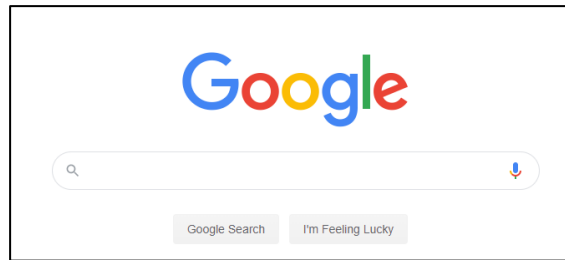
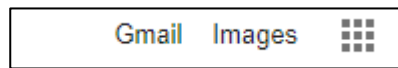
Am I assisting a fellow peer with their work?

Am I asking a clarifying question?

How to log in to your Google account:

Type in the google address: www.google.com

Click on **Sign In** (or click the 9 dots and select drive)



On the next screen type in your email address:

username@parrastu.catholic.edu.au

Another page may appear (pictured below) prompting for a username and password.

This must be completed if it appears.

Parramatta Education must be selected.

A login form for Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. It includes a logo on the left and a login section on the right with fields for 'Username', 'Password', and a dropdown for 'Diocese' (set to 'Parramatta (Education)'). There is a 'Log in' button and a link for 'Expired or Forgotten Password?'.

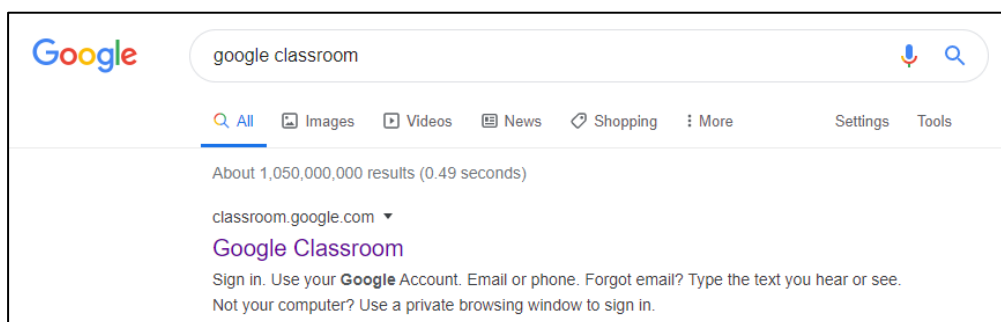
Once you have signed in - Click on the 9 dots and make your selection.

You know your child has logged in as their first initial will be in a large circle to the right of the screen.



Joining the Google Classroom for the first time

In google type - Google Classroom



Click on the first link which takes you directly to the Google Classroom

If you have already logged in to Google (following the instructions above) you will see this at the top of your screen

Click on the cross and select join class

Type in the code given for your grades Google Classroom



A message from our classes.....



Hello Kindy,

We miss you here at school. We hope you are having fun and remember to keep reading! Enjoy your Easter Break.

See you soon!



Hello Year 1,

We miss you all!

We hope you are enjoying your time at home. Wishing you a wonderful Easter. We hope to see you soon.



Hi Superstars,

We hope you are happy and healthy at home. We miss you at school but are working hard with our packs and hope you are too. Enjoy your Easter break coming up and don't eat too much chocolate, save some for us!



Hello Year 3,

I am missing you all!

Great to see you all on our Google Classroom and thank you for the wonderful work you are doing so far.

Hope to see you all soon!

Love Mrs Duval.



Hello Year 4. We hope you're all doing really well. Here we are in Year 4 working really hard! We hope you're doing the same at home. Missing you all. See you when we see you!
Mr Feneley & Mrs Harper.



Hello Year 5,

We hope you are enjoying using Google Classroom and teaching mum & dad how to navigate as well. We are so proud of your efforts so far and can't wait to see how much you achieve by the end of Term 1. We hope you enjoy a happy and safe Easter with your family.

Mrs Kojic and Miss Gray.



Hello Year Six,

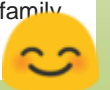
We are missing you all here at school, the classroom is extremely quiet!

We hope that you are enjoying the remote learning and are being creative with your thinking.

Don't forget to take time away from school work and to explore the wonderful outdoors.

Please enjoy this quality time with your family and have a restful Easter break.

Love Mrs Malvagna & Mrs Sultana




Follow us on Facebook

Accessing our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Monicas-Primary-School-Richmond-1452420771540958>

or goo.gl/SeBdoA





SkoolBag


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.





Subscribe to St Monica's Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Our weekly newsletter is accessible online. In order for this to happen, you will need to subscribe via our school website. This will enable you to receive an email in your selected account with a link to the Newsletter.

Please follow the details below to subscribe:

Step 1: Using your internet search engine, type in the following web address.
<http://www.stmonicasrichmond.catholic.edu.au>

Step 2: Select the Community

Step 3: In the dropdown box select Newsletters

Step 4: Subscribe by using the green window on the right hand side.



If you change email address, complete the above again. You will now receive the Newsletter every second Tuesday.
(Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10)

CANTEEN MENU

SANDWICHES				
Bread rolls (add extra)		\$0.50		Paper bags \$0.10
Roast chicken		\$3.50		Apples \$1.00
Roast chicken with salad		\$4.00		
Ham & salad		\$4.00		
Ham		\$3.00		
Tuna		\$3.00		
Vegemite		\$2.50		
Cheese		\$2.50		
Cheese & salad		\$3.50	Extra Fillings	
Mediterranean roll (w/Tuna, olives & tomato paste)		\$3.00	Mayonnaise	\$0.30
Egg & lettuce		\$3.00	Lettuce, tomato	\$0.30
Jaffle: Ham & cheese		\$3.50	Tomato sauce	\$0.30
Jaffle: Cheese		\$3.00	Cheese, egg or avocado	\$0.50
Buttered bread		\$0.60	FRUIT & JELLY	
SALAD PACKS			Jelly cup	\$1.00
Chicken & salad		\$4.50	Jelly & custard	\$1.50
Ham & salad		\$4.50	Custard cup	\$1.00
Tuna & Salad		\$4.50	Seasonal fruit cups (ONLY Term 1 & 4)	\$1.00
WRAPS			RECESS MENU	
Roast chicken, avocado, lettuce & mayo		\$4.50	Garlic bread	\$1.00
Roast chicken & salad		\$4.50	Cheese & bacon rolls	\$2.00
Chicken tender wrap with lettuce & mayo		\$3.50	Pasta cups (ONLY Term 2 & 3)	\$2.00
			Carrot & cucumber with vegetable dip (ONLY Term 1 & 4)	\$1.00
			Chocolate muffins	\$1.00
			Pikelets (ONLY Wednesday)	\$0.50
\$3.50	HOT DOG DAY K-2 - First WEDNESDAY of each month 3-6 - Second WEDNESDAY of each month		To provide the best canteen service for the children, it is necessary for all orders to be handed in at the canteen before 9am. Thank you.	
HOT FOOD			SNACKS	
Chicken Nuggets	3 for \$2.00	6 for \$4.00	Red rock deli chips – Honey & soy	\$1.50
Gluten free nuggets	3 for \$2.00	6 for \$4.00	Smith's salt & vinegar (Gluten free)	\$1.50
Hash browns		\$1.50	Bread sticks (pizza & plain)	\$0.30
Fish fingers	3 for \$2.00	6 for \$4.00	Want Want Rice Crackers	\$0.30
Corn on the cob		\$1.50	Eucalyptus drops	\$1.00
Hot roast chicken roll		\$3.50	ICE BLOCKS	
Pie -Traveller (Large)		\$3.50	Quelch – 99% Fruit juice	\$1.00
Pie - Snack (small)		\$2.00	Zooper Doopers	\$1.00
Potato Pie (ONLY Term 2 & 3)		\$4.00	Zing (yoghurt & fruit)	\$1.00
Lite sausage roll		\$3.00	Frozen apple/blackcurrant cups	\$1.00
Spinach & cheese rolls		\$3.00	Jelly joy sticks (Gluten free)	\$0.30
Pizza – Cheese & bacon		\$3.50	DRINKS	
Lasagne		\$4.00	Popper juice Apple or Orange	\$1.50
Macaroni & cheese		\$4.00	Spring water	\$2.00
Mamee chicken noodles		\$3.00	Quench (blue, green, red)	\$2.50
St Monica's cheese burger with tomato sauce		\$4.00	Flavoured milk Strawberry or Chocolate	\$2.50
St Monica's beef burger with lettuce & tomato		\$4.00	Cup of plain milk	\$1.00
Nacho dippers with salsa & cheese		\$3.50	Please Note: RECESS & LUNCH ORDERS ARE TO BE IN SEPARATE BAGS	
Fish burger with lettuce & mayo		\$4.00		
Chicken burger with lettuce & mayo		\$4.00		