

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Friday 17th April, 2020

"Where Learning and Friendship Grow"

Dear Families

My goodness, what a very different beginning to a term! Thanks for your positivity in approaching remote learning. It is wonderful to hear from some students about the great things they are achieving.

Thanks for responding quickly to the text message about attendance this morning. We are still mandated by the government to mark the attendance roll each morning. This morning's quick responses demonstrated that sending a text each morning is the easiest way for us to ascertain which students are actually engaging in their learning programs at home. By texting 'yes', you are clarifying that your child is well and doing learning activities with you or an alternate adult supervisor. If your child is unable to participate in their learning program, please respond 'no' and explain the absence by sending an email or text or calling the school office. If no response is received by 9.30am, follow-up calls will be made as is our usual practice. For the safety and wellbeing of our students, I have been asked to request local authorities to visit homes to make sure all is well if parents cannot be contacted for two days. I am sure that, if we work together as usual, this will not be necessary.

So that we are all clear on our responsibilities, please consider the guidelines below. It should help us all to understand what is required of us.

Please send us photos or emails of the children's 'remote learning work' when you can. We would love to share some on the newsletter each week.

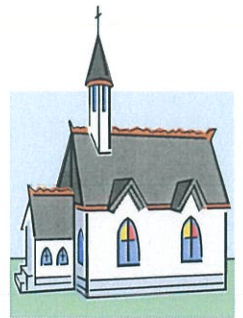
We are all on a very steep learning curve at the moment so let's be patient and continue to work together as we iron out any hiccups. Don't forget to give us a call or send us an email with any issues or concerns. We truly are all in this together for everyone's benefit. I look forward to chatting to you all when we get the chance, either by phone or in conferences.

Take care.

Marie

Prayer

Lord God, your Son Jesus truly entered into the sin and suffering of our world and through his love transformed them. May he breathe upon us his Holy Spirit that we may truly witness to his forgiveness in our world. We ask this in his name, confident that you will hear us.



Dates to Remember

Breakfast Program offered daily before school between 8.30 – 8.45am

Sat 25 th	Anzac Day
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Calm – Confident – Curious – Caring – Creative

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10 Top Tips to Help Protect Your Children Online

1. Build an open trusting relationship around technology — keep communication open and supportive so your child knows they can come to you if something goes wrong or does not feel right online.
2. Co-view and co-play with your child online. This will help you better understand what they are doing and why they enjoy an app, game or website, as well as providing a great opportunity to start conversations about online safety.
3. Build good habits and help your child to develop digital intelligence and social and emotional skills — such as respect, empathy, critical thinking, responsible behaviour and resilience — and practice being good online citizens.
4. Empower your child — wherever possible, help them make wise decisions for themselves, rather than telling them what to do. Try to provide them with strategies for dealing with negative online experiences that will build their confidence and resilience.
5. Use devices in open areas of the home — this can help you manage and be aware of who your child interacts with online through phones, tablets, smart TVs, gaming consoles and other connected devices.
6. Set time limits that balance time spent in front of screens with offline activities — a family technology plan can help you to manage expectations around where and when technology use is allowed — you could even fill in an Early Years Family Tech Agreement.
7. Know the apps, games and social media sites your kids are using, making sure they are age-appropriate, and learn how to limit messaging or online chat and location-sharing functions within apps or games, as these can expose your child to unwanted contact and disclose their physical location. For more advice The eSafety Guide includes information to help parents and carers choose safer apps and report and block unwanted contact and sexual approaches.
8. Check the privacy settings on the games and apps your child is using and make sure their profiles are turned on to the strictest privacy setting. Restrict who can contact your child or ask them to check in with you before accepting new friends.
9. Use available technologies to set up parental controls on devices that can filter harmful content, monitor your child's use and limit or block their time on connected devices or functions (e.g. cameras, in-app purchases).
10. Be alert to signs of distress and know where to go for more advice and support. Report harmful online content to eSafety at esafety.gov.au/report.

Contact a free parent helpline or one of the other many great online counselling and support services for help. Kids, teens and young adults can contact Kids Helpline online or by phone on 1800 551 800 and the service also provides guidance for parents.



Responsibilities for Remote Learning

Teachers

- Be available for students to contact via work email from 9am – 3.15pm
- Set clear expectations for student learning
- Provide a mixture of online and device-free learning tasks
- Give feedback to students and assess their work
- Ring parents/carers weekly to check in and answer any questions
- Continually monitor student learning and adjust learning activities to address their needs and ensure that work set is achievable
- Keep a record of student learning

Parents

- Enjoy your time with your children
- Maintain a routine and help students complete learning tasks
- Be sure to include regular brain breaks, fresh air and movement
- Make sure your child has a space to work and provide a level of supervision suitable to their stage of development
- Monitor, and respond to, communications from teachers
- Email teachers with any concerns or issues (Don't forget Kelly is available on 0491 754 298 during school hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)
- Respond to attendance text message each morning and explain absences in the usual way

Students

- Have fun learning in this exciting, new way
- Complete daily tasks set by teachers either online or in hard copy
- Engage in online sessions, as rostered, if possible – otherwise make suitable alternative arrangements with teachers
- Share your learning with teachers
- Let parents and teachers know if anything is worrying you or you are finding anything tricky

Remember, we are here to help and we are all in this together. Let's help each other and look forward to when we can return to normal!