



Principals Message

Dear Parents and Carers

"We can't stress highly enough:

- You *must* keep your kids at home if they are sick, even if you think it is just a cold
- You will need a plan for who is going to look after the children if they are sick or if schools close. Elderly relatives are not suitable as the risk climbs especially over 60 years of age
- Kids are highly effective at transferring germs.
- Kids can be pretty contagious *even when* they are running around bouncing off the walls!
- Fever, sore throat, runny nose, dry cough? Home (but not with grandparents)
- The data we have to date says that the kids will be fine
- There have been no reported deaths in under 10s and we are watching reports for the 10-20 year olds. We see this with some infections e.g. chicken pox and Hepatitis A are much milder in most young children than in most adults and it appears to be true for Covid-19
- Some have been sick enough to require hospitalisation, however it is the elderly that are most at risk, especially those over 80 years of age
- Treat minor cold and/or flu symptoms just like you usually would, however if there has been overseas travel in the past 14 days, contact with a known case or you have concerns about breathing, STAY AT HOME and USE THE PHONE i.e. call your GP or ED, or 000 in the case of an emergency, don't just turn up. This way we can give you the most appropriate, current advice. Teach your children (and yourself) about keeping their hands below their shoulders, so they avoid touching their face, particularly their mouth, eyes and nose, as these are easy entry points for germs
- Reconsider indoor gatherings for birthday parties or *any gatherings* at present, particularly large ones
- Teach your children that, just for now, no shaking hands, hugs, kisses or high 5s from friends
- Be mindful of what you say and what they hear
- Little ears pick up lots of conversations and little eyes should not see news reports
- They know when we are stressed, so don't be scared, be prepared
- If they are old enough, talk to them about what is happening, but filter the news reports and be aware that there are different opinions and some seriously fake news out there

Dates to Remember

**20TH MAR ANTI BULLYING DAY &
HARMONY DAY**

**25TH MAR BOOK CLUB ORDERS
DUE**

**1ST APRIL YR 6 MCDONALDS
FUNDRAISER 6-7PM**

**9 APR HOLY THURSDAY
LAST DAY OF TERM 1**

27TH APR FIRST DAY OF TERM 2

To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.



Mental health considerations

- Anxiety is also highly contagious (Australia, I'm looking at you and the great toilet paper shortage!) so try and ensure your kids don't catch this from you
- Don't be scared. Be prepared"
 - *Australian GPs, Dr Wendy Burton, MBBS FRACGP (Hon) and Dr Kat McLean, MBChB FRACGP FRNZCGP and with acknowledgement of the amazing hive mind that is GPDU*

Duilio Rufo,
Principal

Assistant Principal's Message

School Safety

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has been in the news for some months, but has always seemed far away from us in Australia. In the last week this threat seems closer to home, which is beginning to worry many people. Please be assured that St Therese's is following advice from the Catholic Schools Office, who in turn are in directly correspondence with NSW Health. Until further notice, St Therese's will be "open for business as usual" and we have introduced extra hygiene precautions. Frequent handwashing, especially after coughing and sneezing are being encouraged by all staff. Children are also reminded that sharing of food, drink bottles etc. are not permitted.

While we are being vigilant, we are also maintaining a calm atmosphere at school. All staff have talked to their classes today, as many children have been a bit worried. We ask parents to be mindful of what you discuss with your children or allow them to watch on TV. Any child that has any sign of the flu – fever, headache, sore throat, coughing or sneezing are to stay at home until a doctor confirms they are not positive for coronavirus. Children who have no symptoms and have not had direct contact with someone who has tested positive to coronavirus **should** attend school, as this provides children with a safe and routine structure, that helps to reduce anxiety. If you are unsure whether your child needs to attend school, please contact the school office.

All excursions, incursions or whole-school events will be cancelled or postponed until further notice. We will do our best to reschedule planned excursion and school events and appreciate your understanding and patience. Updates on events will be sent out via Compass.

Positive Thinking

At times of worry, it is only natural to see things in a sometimes negative light. Many of us have had to cancel long-awaited trips, my niece who has been living in London, has had to postpone her wedding until later in the year, as she cannot get home. These disappointments do result in us feeling sad, angry, scared or frustrated, but it is important to look at all the positives in our world still. A friend recently sent me this message of all the things that have not been cancelled:

- Sitting outdoors
- Music
- Family
- Reading
- Singing
- Laughing
- Hope

Kaylene Maretich
Assistant Principal/Acting Principal

This Week in Profile

Hello to all at St Therese's. My name is Phoebe Parker and I have been lucky enough to have worked at St Therese's for the past three years as a casual teacher, and now on year 3L, 3 days a week. Every day my class inspires and amazes me, making me extremely happy to teach them.

I moved to Newcastle from the Byron Hinterlands where I studied teaching at Newcastle University with discipline depths in Dance and Art. Newcastle has offered me the things I love the most; Travel, Exercise, the beach, and life-long friends. I have been lucky enough to have travelled to some amazing places that inspire me to continue to grasp the work/life balance.

Last year I travelled to Costa Rica where I volunteered with GVI to teach English to Spanish speaking adults and teenagers. Not only did I learn a little bit of Spanish, but I was able to understand the multiple ways in which to teach something, even more challenging in a different language! My travels have seen me study in Canada in my second year of University, backpacking around Europe, chasing numerous tropical locations, and recently exploring the big city of New York. The comfort zone was created to be broken.

I look forward to challenging myself and continually learning every day at St Therese's with a smile on my face.

Phoebe Parker



RE News

Parish/School Mass – Thank you to all who were able to come and join in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration yesterday, as some of our students undertook important roles in the Parish Mass. Special thanks to those parents who were able to get their children to help build not only their own child's faith development but in continuing to strengthen important connections between our school and the wider parish community. The following children assisted in various roles: Lucy A, Ben L, Matisse M, Gabe T, Demetria H, Chloe D and Lucas M.

Sacramental Program – After a meeting with Fr Sabu, Fr Camillus and the REC's from St John's Lambton and Corpus Christi Waratah, I am now able to provide dates for the Sacramental programs of Confirmation, First Holy Communion & Reconciliation. The dates are listed below. More information will be provided to the students in the relevant year groups, including parent-information dates:

- Confirmation – 16th & 17th June (New Lambton), 24th June (Waratah). All at 7pm.
- Holy Communion – 16th, 23rd & 30th August (New Lambton) at 9:15am Sunday Masses.
- Reconciliation – official date TBC but will take place during Advent in line with the Parish reconciliation dates.

Luke Smith
REC Coordinator

School Community News

Playgroup

There will no further playgroup gatherings this term. This situation will be reviewed in Term 2. Thankyou for your understanding.

In preparation for Harmony Day and National Day Against Bullying and Violence this Friday 20th March, students in Year 6 have been learning about cyberbullying and are preparing a presentation for Year 5 students to promote awareness and to teach them skills in keeping themselves safe online. If parents/caregivers would like more information regarding cyberbullying, please visit <https://parenthub.dollysdream.org.au/>

Entertainment Digital Membership

The Entertainment Digital Memberships have started again. There are no more hard copy books only digital. Digital memberships are the way of the future, you can have your membership on many devices and see the savings as you go. What is stopping you purchasing your membership now? With school holidays fast approaching what better way to entertain the children using the vouchers. Did you know that 20% of your membership sale goes directly back to P & F? Spread the word memberships can be purchased by anyone – family, friends, neighbours just give them the link to the online payment process to start saving now. When you buy an Entertainment Membership between 1st - 31st March, you will receive a \$10 JB Hi-Fi eGift Card! For orders, please follow the link: <https://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/340x66> Any questions please call Donna on 0425 342 924.

Year 6 Fundraiser – NOTE change of date

Year 6 are holding their first fundraiser for the year. Please join us on 1st April from 6pm-7pm at Broadmeadow McDonalds.

Chess Champions

Last Friday 13th March, 8 students (Oisin M, Darin R, Kieran S, Gabe T, Elizabeth W, Austin B Jake R and James M) attended the first local heat of the interschool chess challenge. Friday was a very successful day with Jake R (Yr 6) taking out the 5th place individual award. St Therese's was also the third placed school meaning that we now go through to the regional semi-finals.



Compass Information

- PLEASE DO NOT REPORT PARTIAL ABSENCES through the Compass App. Reporting partial absences may cause inconsistencies with your child's attendance.
- Only Whole DAY absences should be reported.
- Late arrival at school or early departure from school requires parents to sign their children in at the Administration Office and use the kiosk
- SMS's are sent to parents of students who are absent at 9.45am each weekday morning.
- You will receive a text message if your child was not present during roll call.
- Please phone the school to explain your child's absence if you receive a text or put a note on Compass APP.
- Please do not respond by text, the Compass system does not accept them.
- If you notify the school beforehand that your child is going to arrive late, you will still receive an SMS.
- The arrival time of a student cannot be amended prior to them reporting to the Administration Office on arrival.
- On occasion you may be sent a text message even though your child is in attendance at school, this may be because they have arrived late and have not reported to Administration Office.
- In the event you receive a communication from the school inadvertently, please phone Administration Office (4957 4922) and this will be investigated.

In line with Government legislation, please ensure your child's absence is explained within seven (7) days of the absence date otherwise the absence is recorded as unexplained, and will remain unexplained, even if a note is later received.

PBS

School Spirit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received the School Spirit Award last week for demonstrating **Respect** by displaying **Obedience**. Thank you for being a pleasure to teach!

School Spirit Award for demonstrating RESPECT by displaying Obedience.					
KN	Amelia G	KW	Ruby M	KL	Ava H
	Mia H		Charlie F		Luke P
1N	Ashton S	1W	Amelia H	1L	Stirling R
	Georgia P		Stella R		Oscar Y
2N	Hema R	2W	Hamish L	2L	Mia S
	Thomas T		Harrison M		Griffin C
3N	Francesca J	3W	Olivia L	3L	Felix M
	Ruby T		Mia S		Marly M
4N	Hugo D	4W	Oliver H	4L	Knox M
	Maya F		Madelyn O		Audrey B
5N	Elizabeth W	5W	Hannah A	5L	Olivia R
	Marni B		Nate B		Kai H
6N	William G	6W	Ava R	6L	Saige T
	Arielle R		Tommy O		Samuel T

For the next two weeks our focus is on demonstrating Respect by Encouraging Others. One of the great ways we can show respect for people is by encouraging them. When someone has a particular talent or ability, we can show respect of that ability by offering words of encouragement and positive affirmation. In the same way, even if someone is not experiencing success, we can show praise for their efforts. When we encourage others in this way, we show respect for them as a person and hopefully give them the courage and perseverance to keep on trying. So, let's always show our respect for one another by offering kind words of encouragement.

Principals Awards

Each week class teachers hand out Merit Awards to students for various reasons including wonderful behaviour, great social skills, academic achievements, and looking after our environment – just to name a few! Once students have received 3 Merit Awards, they will receive a Principal Award for upholding the values and principles of St Therese's. Principal Awards are usually handed out at our Monday afternoon School Assemblies. Due to the cancellation of School Assemblies, Principal Awards will be handed to the students by Mr Rufo or Mrs Maretich and a photo will be taken and put in the newsletter each week.

Congratulations to the following students who received a Principal Award today:

Olivia. M (KL) and Mason. O (KL)

Janine Schneider
Coordinator



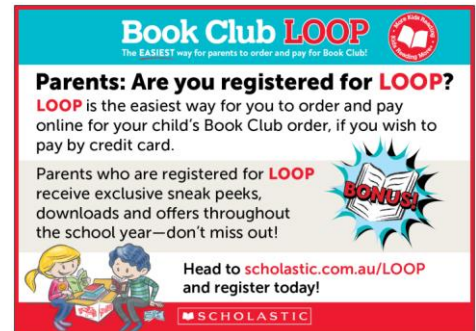
BOOK CLUB: Issue 2 Book Club is now available.
Closing date for orders is tomorrow WEDNESDAY 25th March.
52 titles @ \$5 or under

There are now two ways to order from Scholastic Book Club.

If you wish to make a purchase through the school, simply fill out the order form – place it in an envelope with the CORRECT money, or cheque made out to Scholastic Australia. Please write your child's name and class on the front of the envelope as well as the order form.

ALTERNATIVELY, you may order through 'LOOP' which is on-line order and payment, with your purchases delivered to the school.

Office pick-up is always available for discreet orders such as birthdays, Christmas, rewards etc. Clearly mark the order '**Office pick-up**' and add a contact number. 'LOOP' also has an option to tick a box for '**gift orders**' which can be picked up from the office.



REMEMBER: All orders earn valuable resources for our school.

St NICHOLAS OOSH

Hello to everyone from St Nicholas OOSH New Lambton,
Holiday time is fast approaching and we are taking bookings now. Please see the attached Vacation Care program for all the fun we have planned. Call in to the service to pick up a booking request form or email the service to have a program sent to you.

CHRISTINE MORGAN

NOMINATED SUPERVISOR - OOSH | ST NICHOLAS OOSH
| PO Box 775 Newcastle NSW 2300 Email christine.morgan@stnicholasoosh.org.au
Visit us online www.stnicholasoosh.org.au

Want a rare and amazing opportunity for your singer aged 8-14 years?

'Noah's Flood' 50 minute Opera by British composer, Benjamin Britten

29 & 30 May | 5 & 7 June

Conductor: **Dr. Ian Cook** Director: **Ghillian Sullivan**,
Performed by: **Our Song Crew Singers**
Newcastle Youth and Wind Orchestras and Avondale College Music Students with Dr Aleta King

Rehearsals:
Sunday Afternoons April 26 – May 24
The Junction Public School
Wednesdays (if possible) 4.30-5.00 Hamilton Adventist

Special for Opera Chorus Participation:

Performance registration: \$40.00 | Rehearsals 11th March – 4th June: 85.00

NB: If aged 10-14 years, but not able to attend Wednesdays rehearsals, contact us for alternative arrangements to be part of this amazing production.
Any keen singers in financial difficulty please notify us.

For more details contact us now or turn up to our Wednesday Rehearsal!
admin@julieloganmusic.com.au | **0414 848 741**

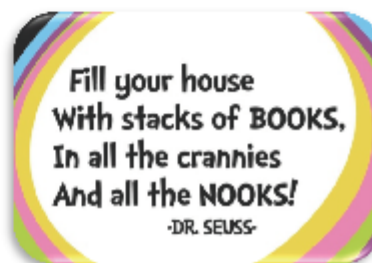


Our library shelves are very bare,
Though dear students, don't despair!
Your teachers are all here for you
To guide the way and get you through.
While our space continues to build,
Grab a book and feel all chilled...
We can pretty much guarantee
That you will love the PRC!!

That's right, even though we don't have a physical library at the moment – we will continue to run the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) again this year. The PRC is a state-wide program which encourages students to read a certain amount of books with the aim to foster a love of reading for pleasure. A suggested book list provides students with the opportunity to experience quality literature.

The challenge runs from the 2nd March to 28th August 2020. Every student who completes the PRC will receive a commemorative certificate from the Premier.

K-2 children are automatically enrolled and will complete the challenge in class with their teacher and during library lessons.



Children in Years 3-6 take ownership of their own reading. Any primary aged children wishing to complete the challenge will need to see Mrs Gleeson to be issued with their log-on details. As we do not currently have a library collection to borrow from, the children may need to borrow PRC titles from any branch of the Newcastle Library, or find titles in their own personal collection. Get the word out – perhaps there are friends or family around who might have a copy of a book which your child may like to read!

Students must read the following number of books to complete the Challenge:

Challenge	Number of books you must read	Minimum number of PRC books	Maximum Number of Personal Choice books	PRC booklists you can read from
K-2	30	25	5	K-2, 3-4, 5-6
3-4	20	15	5	3-4, 5-6, 7-9
5-6	20	15	5	5-6, 7-9

PRC booklists, as well as all the rules and information are available at <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>. Any questions, please email me through the school email address or ask me on my teaching days – Wednesday and Thursday.

Let the reading begin 😊
Mrs Gleeson



Enter Now!

2020 Harmony Day Poster and Song Writing Competitions

Theme: 'Picture a World in Harmony'

Poster and Song Writing Competitions

Prizes will be awarded in two categories:

- Senior (Year 7 – Year 12); and
- Junior (K - Year 6)

Poster Competition Prizes

In each category the following prizes are awarded:

- State Winner \$500
- Regional Winner \$150
- State Winner's School \$500

Song Writing Competition Prizes

In each category the following prizes are awarded:

- First Prize \$300
- Second Prize \$150

Closing Date:

10 April 2020

Entry Forms and Competition Rules

Are available at:

www.movingforwardtogether.org.au

Prize Giving Function

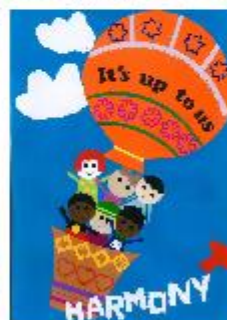
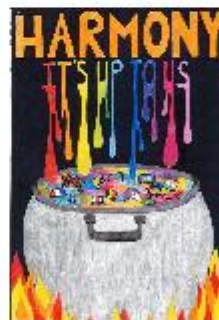
Will be held at the NSW Parliament House
in June 2020

Certificate of Participation

Every entrant will receive a Certificate of
Participation

More information from:

- yona.cass@bbnsw.org.au
- Poster@movingforwardtogether.org.au
- Song@movingforwardtogether.org.au



Winning posters from 2019



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

For parents/guardians of students:

2020 Student Residential Address and Other Information collection notice

This notice is from the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the department), to advise you that the department has requested that your child's school provide a 'statement of addresses', in accordance with the *Australian Education Regulation 2013* (Cth) (Regulation).

A *statement of addresses* contains the following information about each student at the school:

- Student residential address (not student names)
- Student level of education (i.e. whether the student is a primary or secondary student)
- Student boarding school status (i.e. whether the student is boarding or a day student)
- Names and residential addresses of students' parent(s) and/or guardian(s)

Schools generate a record number for each student for the purposes of this collection, which is also provided to the department.

Purpose of the collection

This collection is routinely used to inform Commonwealth school education policy, and to help ensure that Commonwealth funding arrangements for non-government schools are based on need, and are fair and transparent.

The information collected in the *statement of addresses* will be used to inform school funding calculations. It is combined with data held by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to calculate the estimated capacity of a school community to contribute to the schools' operating costs (capacity to contribute). Australian Government funding to non-government schools takes this estimated capacity to contribute into account.

On 20 September 2018 the Government announced that it will implement a new, improved capacity to contribute methodology used in the calculation of the Commonwealth's needs-based funding arrangements for non-government schools. Known as the direct measure of income (DMI), the proposed new methodology is based on the median income of parents or guardians of students at a non-government school. This is in contrast to the current area based measure which is a point in time analysis based on average circumstances in 2011 of the area in which students at the school lived. This change follows a review of the existing methodology by the National School Resourcing Board. Further information about the review and the Government's response can be found on the department's website: <https://www.education.gov.au/review-socio-economic-status-ses-score-methodology>.

Use and disclosure of personal information

Your personal information is protected by law, including the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). Any use and disclosure of your personal information relating to the *statement of addresses* will occur in accordance with the Regulation.

Your personal information may be used by the department, or disclosed to the ABS, for the purposes of reviewing capacity to contribute methodology, calculating capacity to contribute and Commonwealth school education policy development (including school funding), or where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.

Your personal information will be provided to the ABS for capacity to contribute calculations and analysis as part of the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP). Departmental staff will use the ABS' secure DataLab to undertake analysis and calculate capacity to contribute scores for schools using de-identified data (i.e. data that has had identifiable information such as name and address removed). The linked information will not be used for other purposes. Further information on the MADIP can be found here:

[http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/4a256353001ef3ed4b2562bb00121364/9099c77cb979d558ca258198001b27a0/\\$FILE/MADIP%20iPIA_2018.pdf](http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/4a256353001ef3ed4b2562bb00121364/9099c77cb979d558ca258198001b27a0/$FILE/MADIP%20iPIA_2018.pdf).

The department may, from time to time, carry out audits of school submissions. In the event of an audit, contracted auditors may seek to compare a school's statement of addresses with student enrolment information held by the school. These contractors will not use the information for any other purpose.

The department may also be required to disclose your personal information to its service providers for the purposes of the provision of information and communications technology (ICT) support services to the department.

What do you need to do?

You are not required to do anything. Your school is responsible for providing the requested details to the department, however, you may wish to ensure that your school has the most up-to-date and correct details for your family.

Contacts for further information

Your school can provide additional information about the process of the address collection.

If you have any further questions regarding the collection, you can contact the department by:

- Email: seshelpdesk@desa.gov.au
- Phone (free call): SES helpdesk on 1800 677 027 (Option 4)

The department's privacy policy is available on the department's website at www.desa.gov.au. The privacy policy contains information about:

- how individuals can access and seek correction of the personal information held by the department;
- how complaints about breaches of the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) can be made; and
- how the department will deal with these complaints.

PLAYGROUP CELEBRATING ST PATRICK'S DAY





Tips for coping with coronavirus anxiety

As the number of coronavirus cases rise across Australia, the level of anxiety within the community is increasing.

Feelings of worry and unease can be expected following a stressful event, such as the recent declaration of a global pandemic, however, it is important that we learn to manage our stress before it turns to more severe anxiety and panic.

This information sheet outlines some useful strategies which can help both adults and children cope with the stress or anxiety experienced as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

Learn the facts

Constant media coverage about the coronavirus can keep us in a heightened state of anxiety. Try to limit related media exposure and instead seek out factual information from reliable sources such as the Australian Government's [health alert](#) or other trusted organisations such as the [World Health Organization](#).

Keep things in perspective

When we are stressed, it is easy to see things as worse than they really are. Rather than imagining the worst-case scenario and worrying about it, ask yourself:

- *Am I getting ahead of myself, assuming something bad will happen when I really don't know the outcome?* Remind yourself that the actual number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in Australia is extremely low.
- *Am I overestimating how bad the consequences will be?* Remember, illness due to coronavirus infection is usually mild and most people recover without needing specialised treatment.
- *Am I underestimating my ability to cope?* Sometimes thinking about how you would cope, even if the worst were to happen, can help you put things into perspective.

Take reasonable precautions

Being proactive by following basic hygiene principles can keep your anxiety at bay. The World Health Organization recommends a number of protective measures against the coronavirus, including to:

- wash your hands frequently
- avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- stay at home if you begin to feel unwell until you fully recover
- seek medical care early if you have a fever, cough or experience breathing difficulties.

