



## Principals Message

Dear Parents and Carers

At this extremely difficult time, I want to reassure you that your children are safe and that the school will continue to support you and your family.

As we get closer to Easter, I ask you to spend time with your children and families to reflect on the true meaning of life and the importance of loving each other and loving your neighbour.

Many of you are asking for work to be provided for home. Teachers are working on providing this opportunity for your children however while the school remains open and children are in classrooms the teachers main role is to ensure that learning is delivered to the children in front of them at this point in time.

The teachers have already begun organising online distance learning you will be contacted and given information on how to access this for your children by the end of the week. We will not be sending home the children's books at this time for any grade. As you can appreciate, taking books home and then bringing them back to school can be problematic in the transition of this virus.

I would like to thank Mrs Maretich for her great leadership at this time and to all the teachers for their ongoing support. I thank you the parents for all your lovely emails giving encouragement to the teachers and myself. This has meant a great deal to us.

I remind you also that if your child is not coming to school over the next few weeks if you could please add a note to Compass as the system is still operational and you will get alerts if your child's absence is unexplained. You can select 'Other Explained Absence' and write social distancing' or similar and adjust the dates on this note as necessary.

## Communication

Please be aware that the school will be using compass along with OneNote (years 5 & 6) and Story Park (kinder) to communicate with you. Please make sure that you check your Apps at least daily for updated information.

Communication with teachers will be restricted to emails only. Teachers are receiving huge numbers of phone calls and this is

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

## Dates to Remember

25<sup>TH</sup> MAR BOOK CLUB ORDERS DUE

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

27<sup>TH</sup> APR **FIRST DAY OF TERM 2**



causing extra stress. If you need to ask your child's teacher a question in relation to their learning please put it in an email and teachers will reply to you within 48 hours.

**Duilio Rufo,**  
**Principal**

## **Assistant Principal's Message**

### **Updated Procedures**

St Therese's will remain open until the end of term, following advice from the Catholic Schools Office (CSO). We will be setting up home learning activities for families that opt to keep their children at home, we will notify you as soon as these are set up. Please see Compass for some ideas to use with your children this week.

### **Well Being of Young Children**

Everywhere we go, all we seem to hear and see is COVID-19. I have never seen anything like this in my lifetime and I often feel very worried or nervous, so I can only imagine what the current situation looks like from the eyes of a child. While it is very important that we are all informed, we also need to put things into perspective for our children. Please try to minimise your child's exposure to television and radio programs that are discussing COVID-19, in many cases these are sensationalised stories. Instead put all the information into "kid friendly" terms, be honest but also positive and speak to your child about how to help minimise the spread of the virus:

- Social distancing
- Effective handwashing
- Coughing and sneezing into your elbow

Have COVID-19 free conversations – in my home we are not allowed to talk about the virus after 6:00pm each day and never over the weekend! Instead spend time with your children in family activities, playing games, getting out into open spaces even watching a movie at home. There is still so much to enjoy and engage in, and we need to focus on these to ensure our children's mental health and wellbeing.

### **2021 Kinder & St Pius Enrolments**

If you or anyone you know is enrolling for St Therese's in 2021, please complete the enrolment process online. Kinder enrolments close at the end of May. You will then be notified that your enrolment has been received. Once all enrolments have been received letters of offers are sent – this usually occurs towards the end of July.

St Pius enrolment forms for next year will need to be either emailed or sent in with your child by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. We will then deliver all the forms to St Pius for them to prepare for next year.

### **World's Greatest Shave**

Next Monday 30 March, Marni B in 5N will have her head shaved for the World's Greatest Shave. If you would like to sponsor Marni, please go to <http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/angiepritchard>. We will share this with the school via Zoom, rather than having an assembly as was previously planned. Thank you Marni for this, all proceeds go towards such an important cause.

### **Thank you**

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the amazing staff for all that you have done and are doing to support the learning of our students. Thank you also to all the families for your support and kind words in this very difficult time. It is truly a privilege to be a part of this beautiful community.

**Kaylene Maretich**  
**Assistant Principal/Acting Principal**



## This Week in Profile

### Patricia McNeil

I'm thrilled to be a part of the teaching and learning community at St Therese's New Lambton. It truly has been a lovely transition to a new school due to the welcoming staff and friendly students.



I have two roles at our school. On Mondays and Tuesdays I teach students across Year 2 to Year 6 to develop and extend their writing skills. We have rich discussions about language use, text structure, figurative language, persuasive devices and generating ideas- it really feels like I'm a lecturer at university! The students are amazing. I also have the honour of job sharing with the talented Ms Jackman on 4N for two days a week. It is wonderful teaching 4N and the students are very responsive to the lessons Ms Jackman and I prepare.

I have been teaching for over twenty years and feel privileged that I play a role in educating children. Students inspire me with their natural curiosity, creativity and thirst for knowledge. I'm impressed with the kindness students at St Therese's show for each other. I have taught in South Korea, Darwin, Narrandera and Canberra. My husband Matt and I returned to Newcastle with our two daughters, Eve and Molly to enjoy the coastal lifestyle. I love being in nature and enjoy camping, travelling, reading, swimming, art and music. Being in the company of family and friends brings me great joy.

## RE News

**Pope's Message** - Pope Francis has asked people to pray for all victims of Covid-19, including the health care workers who sacrificed their lives caring for others.

In his homily, the Pope reflected on how God is always close to his people, walking with them as a loving father. God would also like his children to be close to him and to each other, the Pope added.

God lowers himself "to be with us, to walk with us, to help us," Pope Francis said. "Our God is near and asks us to be close to one another, not to become distant from each other." In this moment of crisis because of the pandemic we are experiencing, he is asking that we show this closeness even more," he said.

Understandably, people may not be able to be close physically because of the risk of contagion, but "we can reawaken in ourselves an attitude of being close together, with prayer, with help, in many ways. "Why should we be close to each other? Because our God is close and he wants to accompany us in life," which is why Christians are not people who distance themselves from God and others." The Pope asked that people pray for the grace to be close to others and not "wash their hands" of personal responsibility.

**Major Changes to Liturgy** – There were two documents from the Bishop that you should have received last week concerning the changes to Mass, Liturgies & other Sacramental celebrations. In summary, here is some of the information included in the letter most relevant to us as a school community:

- The public celebration of Mass is suspended until further notice. This suspension applies to both Sunday Mass and Weekday Mass, and includes Sunday Celebrations of the Word (with Communion) and weekday Liturgies of the Word (with Communion).
- While there will not be a public celebration, I or my Vicar General will celebrate Sunday Mass in the Cathedral each week. The Diocese is currently investigating arrangements for livestreaming the Cathedral Mass. Further details to follow when they are available.
- The public celebration of the ceremonies of Holy Week and the Sacred Paschal Triduum is cancelled.
- Parish Sacramental Preparation Programs are to be cancelled for the duration of 2020.

- The celebrations of Confirmation and First Communion are cancelled for 2020; we shall observe a 'fallow year' with time to reflect on current practice, and return to the sacramental journeys for our children in 2021.

**Luke Smith**  
**REC Coordinator**

## School Community News

### 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.

### School Photos

School photos have been sent home for those families who ordered them. If you would like to order speciality photos EG; band, school captains etc please use the following code 61675CX.

### Environmental news

#### 1. **Start a compost pile at home**

(Lake Macquarie council already offers a compost service- ask Newcastle Council to do the same)



**Vicki McSpadden**  
**School Bursar**

## Sport

As families have already predicted the School X Country and other sporting events including the Diocesan and Regional Trials have been cancelled. I appreciate the children involved in these events are upset, please take the time to talk to them about this.

### NDA Bullying & Violence/Harmony Day

Thank you to the Active Lifestyle team who ran extra activities in the playground last Friday to help promote acceptance and tolerance of others in our community. By all reports the students at school had a wonderful day and enjoyed the fun. We thank the Active Lifestyle Leaders in Grade 6 for their effort.

**Deb Petersen**  
**Primary Coordinator**

## PBS

### School Spirit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received the School Spirit Award last week for demonstrating **Respect** through **Encouraging Others**. Thank you for showing kindness and support to your classmates! This week we continue to focus on this value.



### Principal Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received a **Principal Award**: Jacob. J (KL) and Oliver. H (1L). Thank you for upholding the values and principles of St Therese's.

**Janine Schneider**

**Coordinator**

School Spirit Award for demonstrating <b>RESPECT</b> through <i>Encouraging Others</i> . (Please record 2 names per class)					
KN	Edmund H	KW	Oliver W	KL	Slade M
	Isabella G		Amelia M		Benjamin C
1N	Reid M	1W	Marcus A	1L	Georgie A
	Benjamin W		Evie T		Julien C
2N	Anna P	2W	Claire A	2L	Lachlan C
	Oliver S		Annabel R		Indigo H
3N	Leila O	3W	Jacob L	3L	Miles T
	Liam R		Rose H		Rosemary C
4N	Sonny P	4W	Ryan C	4L	Keana C
	Matisse M		Isla-Grace B		Luke M
5N	Cooper C	5W	Tavian Q	5L	Sophie K
	Grace M		Myles N		Zoe L
6N	Noah C	6W	Matilda G	6L	Harry S
	Hayley S		Marcus C		Abigail A

### BOOK CLUB – Issue 2

**Closing date** for orders from Scholastic Australia – Issue 2 is tomorrow, **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**. Please ensure that your order form has been filled in and placed in an envelope with your child's name and class on the front. Remember to enclose the CORRECT money or cheque made payable to Scholastic Australia.

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

Please note: Late orders for 'LOOP' may incur a delivery fee if order is posted to your home. Office pick-up is always available for discreet orders such as Christmas, birthdays, 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'. **REMEMBER: All orders earn valuable resources for our school.**

### ST NICHOLAS OOSH

Hello from St Nicholas OOSH New Lambton,

**IMPORTANT NEWS** – Following the health advice from the Federal Government concerning the outbreak of COVID-19 In Australia, we will be temporarily operating from the large school hall to best put in place social distancing. We request that all drop offs and collections be made from the Royal Street entrance. Our parent desk for sign in/out will be placed outside of the school hall. To ensure the safety of children and staff we ask that parents/guardians do not enter the hall for collection. There will be a staff member available to assist with this process.

The staff at St Nicholas OOSH are doing their best to implement a number of safety measures, including increased cleaning, social distancing, staff preparing breakfast and serving afternoon tea for children (rather than children serving themselves). Despite these difficult times the service will be doing their very best to keep children engaged in a number of programmed activities.

We understand if you choose to not have your child/children attend their permanently booked days. Please advise in writing if your child/children will be absent from OOSH.

Kind Regards,

**CHRISTINE MORGAN**

NOMINATED SUPERVISOR - OOSH | ST NICHOLAS OOSH

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Visit us online [www.stnicholasoosh.org.au](http://www.stnicholasoosh.org.au)

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Coronavirus  
(COVID-19)

## COVID-19: IDENTIFYING THE SYMPTOMS

SYMPTOMS	COVID-19	COLD	FLU
	Symptoms range from mild to severe	Gradual onset of symptoms	Abrupt onset of symptoms
<b>Fever</b> 	Common	Rare	Common
<b>Cough</b> 	Common	Common	Common
<b>Sore Throat</b> 	Sometimes	Common	Common
<b>Shortness of Breath</b> 	Sometimes	No	No
<b>Fatigue</b> 	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
<b>Aches &amp; Pains</b> 	Sometimes	No	Common
<b>Headaches</b> 	Sometimes	Common	Common
<b>Runny or Stuffy Nose</b> 	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
<b>Diarrhea</b> 	Rare	No	Sometimes, especially for children
<b>Sneezing</b> 	No	Common	No

Adapted from material produced by WHO, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



**TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD AND STAY HEALTHY.**

For more information about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** visit [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au)



Australian Government

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