



## Acting Principals Message

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you all had a relaxing holiday, even though the holidays were very different to what we are accustomed to. The Easter Season is the pivotal time for our Catholic faith, where we see the love that God has for all of us, that was witnessed through His son Jesus. Easter asks us to stop to reflect and pray on the Easter messages of forgiveness, hope, love and compassion.

It has been lovely to see the students either onsite or through Zoom. We are really missing all our beautiful children and their families, who make up the heart and soul of the school. Hopefully, it will not be too long until we are all together again.

We have started school in much the same way as Term 1 concluded, St Therese's is open for all children of essential workers and those that cannot be supported in learning from home. We continue to follow the advice of the NSW Premier in encouraging students to learn from home as much as possible to continue to limit the spread the COVID-19. We have a reduced staff onsite each day again to support social distancing of adults.

Parents, please read all Compass notifications so that you and your child is aware of procedures, events etc. at school. I am aware that these notifications may be lengthy at times, our aim is to keep you all informed of what is happening at St Therese's. It can be very difficult for our staff to answer similar questions each morning that have already been clarified through Compass.

## Welcome to New Staff

I would like to congratulate Mrs Leanne Kepreotes, who has been appointed as Acting Primary Coordinator. We welcome Miss Laura Wells to 3N, as Mr Rouse is unable to teach during Term 2 on his doctor's advice. We welcome Miss Wells to our St Therese's team.

## School Attendance

It can be confusing to know what is happening with so many mixed messages in the media. St Therese's takes all our advice from the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) who in turn are advised by Catholic Schools NSW, Federal and State Governments.

## Dates to Remember

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



Therefore, comparing what is happening in our Diocese to Department of Education Schools, private and independent schools is not effective. All schools are focused on promoting learning at this very difficult time and all our staff have worked tirelessly over the past four weeks to organise home learning. Our focus is on the teaching of Religion, English and Mathematics. Zoom meetings will focus on teaching in these areas, so children are encouraged to attend all planned Zoom meetings for their grades.

#### **Cancellation of School Activities**

In line with Government restrictions all school activities, including fundraising for Mother's Day and the Mother's Day Breakfast are cancelled. As to are the Parents & Friends Association monthly meetings, when the restrictions are altered we will review our commitments and respond appropriately. Thanking you for your understanding during these difficult times.

#### **Hard Copy Packs**

Hard copy learning packs are being prepared for all families that requested this as they cannot access what was uploaded to Compass. These will be ready for pick up from **Wednesday 29 April** at 9:30am in front of old Library. Please collect these on Wednesday and not before as we continue to try limit the number of visitors on site.

**Kaylene Maretich**  
***Acting Principal***

### **Acting Assistant Principal's Message**

#### **Term 2**

Welcome back to everyone in our St Therese's community. The two weeks of holidays went by very quickly with Easter and ANZAC day celebrations. Below are a few short messages for your information.

#### **Changes in Sport**

Last term I shared with you that all Representative sport and school sporting events have been cancelled until further notice. Mrs Kepreotes will now organise sport for the school when and if events are to come back this term or Term 3 and 4. Keeping our students active is extremely important and I thank Mr Hartcher for continuing to program and organise activities for our students. Please look at your child's Compass 'Tasks' for these activities.

#### **Zoom Conferences**

All grades have been given the meeting ID's and passwords for the Zoom conferences with students. Thank you to all the students who joined their teachers for lessons, it is a new way of teaching and learning for all and our skills our getting better with every opportunity. Just a reminder to all that when using zoom to please use the video feature and have your face clear for your teachers to see you. The chat box is handy for asking questions or making statements about the lesson you are in but it is not for silly comments or inappropriate language. Parents could you please remind your child of these couple of points when using zoom.

#### **Office of Safe Guarding**

When working and/or learning from home it is important to take care of your mental health as well as your physical activity. Subscribing to meditation apps and sites such as Headspace or Calm really do make a difference. Take some time to breath each day and if you accomplish one thing, celebrate that as a success. The company 'Wayahead' are now holding free parental seminars called "small steps". These seminars are developed to help parents and teachers identify and address anxiety disorders in children. For more information go to <http://understandinganxiety.wayahead.org.au/primary-school-seminars/> website.

**Deb Petersen**  
***Acting Assistant Principal***

## RE News

Welcome back to Term 2! I pray you all were able to enjoy Easter and the spirit of hope it offers to us as followers of Christ.

Most recently was ANZAC Day and again, despite none of the traditional ceremonies or events taking place, it was heart-warming to see people's genuine attempts to respond out of love, respect and a sense of solidarity with those who have served. It is in times of trial and challenge that we see people's and indeed a nation's true character rise to the surface. It is pleasing to see actions and sentiments such as those expressed over the weekend that offer us all hope. The prayer for ANZAC Day below has been taken from the Archdiocese of Brisbane:

### Anzac Prayer —

God of our Mothers and Fathers,  
we pray for the peace of the world.  
We especially entrust to your mercy the homeless and refugees;  
those who have been dispossessed through war;  
those whose lives and families have been disrupted;  
and who mourn the loss of loved ones.  
We pray for countries who are war-torn even today.  
May sanity return and kindness win through wherever there is warfare.

Blessings,  
**Luke Smith**

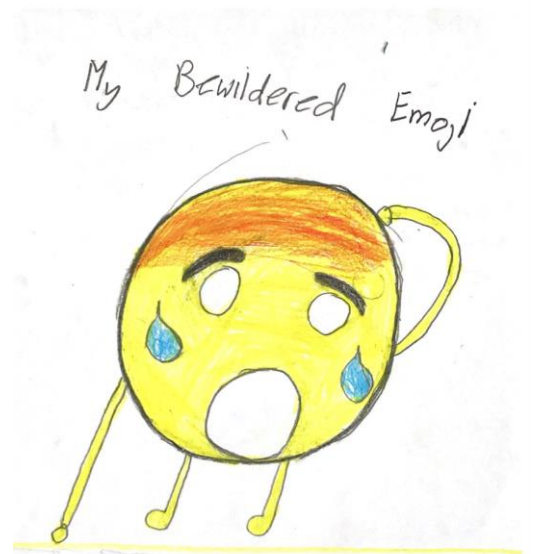
## News from the Classroom

### Word of the Week Update

Well what a great response I have had from very clever students that had a go at designing a 'bewildered' emoji.

I have selected this emoji from Casper Hansen Earley to share, as I felt it really did depict the emotion we feel when we are bewildered. What a great emoji Casper. We can't wait to see what other emoji's or illustrations you might share in our word of the week challenge.

Take care and happy talking,  
**Mrs Adams**



## School Community News

### School Fees

At this difficult time we understand that people's finances are impacted. If you require a financial concession or support with school fees, there is an online form to complete at the CSO website to apply for these – see attached letter for links. <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/news-events/covid-19/>

**Vicki McSpadden**  
**Bursar**

### Canteen

Welcome back to Term 2. The Canteen is operating as normal with a full menu selection available, however our lovely volunteers are still enjoying a rest from duty. Sushi Tuesday is still available.

## Environmental News

1. **Bring some plants indoors to clean the air and reduce the temperature** (below is a list of hardy indoor plants) For more info google NASA clean air study

- Cast iron plant
- Janet craig
- Mexican Ponytail
- Snake plant
- Cactus

## St Nicholas OOSH

Hello to everyone from St Nicholas OOSH New Lambton.

We had a fun two weeks in vacation care even though it was very different in a lot of ways. Lower numbers than usual but more than we anticipated with 20 to 40 children on various days. Not having excursions or incursions was challenging for everyone but we rose to the challenge and did the absolute best that we could. We had many new families who would normally attend other St Nic's OOSH services so children had the opportunity to make new friends. We painted, made forts, made and flew kites, danced, sang, built a boat, watched some movies, did some science experiments, did many jigsaws, beading, had a scavenger hunt and even did some orienteering.

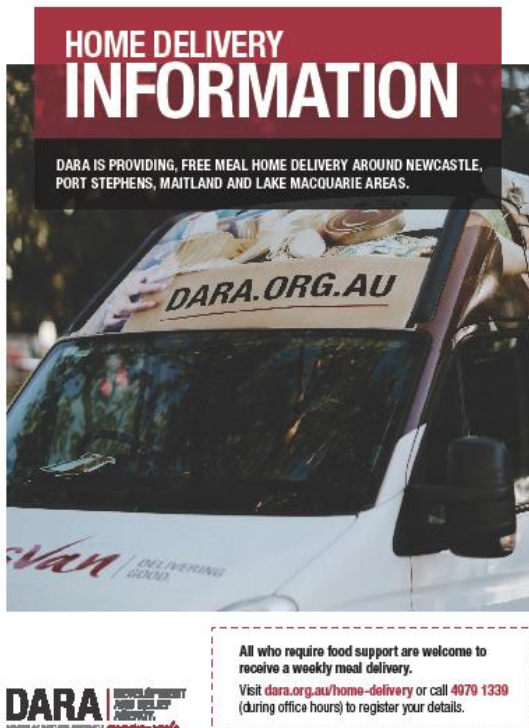
Before and after school care will continue to operate out of the school hall with entry and exit via the Royal Street gate. We will continue to ensure that children and staff are washing hands, toys etc and using social distancing at all times to the best of our ability. We anticipate that we will move back in to our usual OOSH room in week 3 but will advise when we have more information.

## **CHRISTINE MORGAN**

NOMINATED SUPERVISOR - OOSH | ST NICHOLAS OOSH NEW LAMBTON

Phone: 0455 099 594

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**HOME DELIVERY INFORMATION**

DARA IS PROVIDING, FREE MEAL HOME DELIVERY AROUND NEWCASTLE, PORT STEPHENS, MAITLAND AND LAKE MACQUARIE AREAS.

**DARA.ORG.AU**

**DARA** | DIVISION OF SAINT JOHN'S CATHEDRAL  
NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA

All who require food support are welcome to receive a weekly meal delivery.  
Visit [dara.org.au/home-delivery](http://dara.org.au/home-delivery) or call 4079 1339 (during office hours) to register your details.

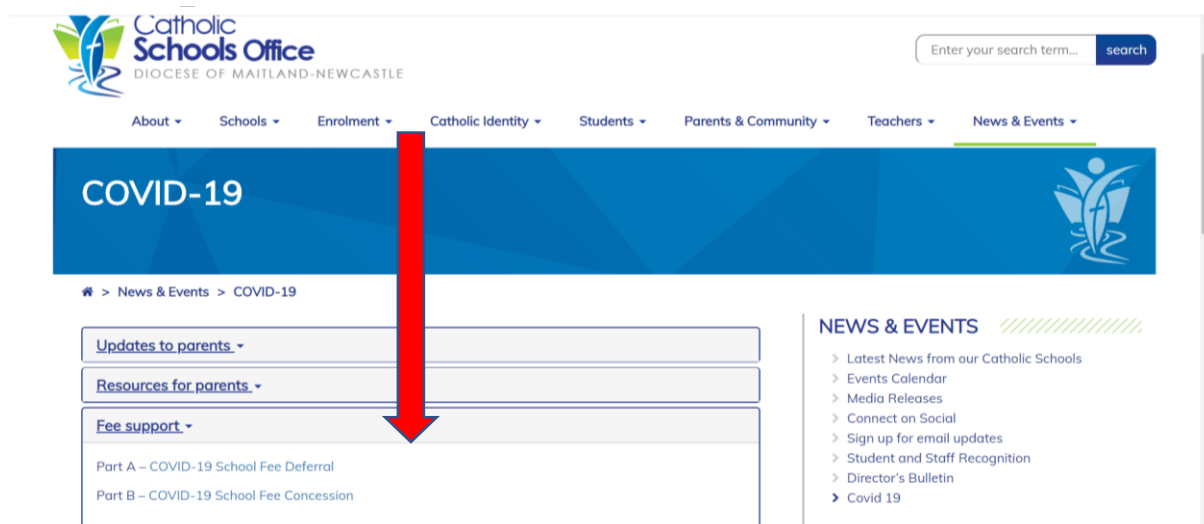


## WHERE TO FIND THE COVID 19 FEE RELIEF FORMS ON THE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE WEBSITE

Go to the CSO Website and click on the News & Events tab. Click on the COVID-19 tab.



Click on the Fee Support Link under the COVID-19 tab. Click on Part A and or Part B and submit form/s.





Friday, 3 April 2020

Dear Families,

**Re: Early childhood and care relief package**

We welcome the *Early childhood and care relief package* as announced by the Prime Minister and Education Minister yesterday. The announcement of free childcare during the coronavirus pandemic brings great relief to our families, our industry as well as a level of certainty for our OOSH services.

We have been reviewing and assessing the announcement, given the payments start next week, and wanted to share with you what the package might mean for you and our services. The attached FAQ document should answer many of your questions.

Importantly, I would encourage anyone who has ceased their child's enrolment to restart. This does **not** mean that your child needs to attend, allowable absences can be used.

Re-starting your enrolment will hold your place in the service for that point in time when things start to normalise and you are ready to return your child to care.

As for your current account, your statement will be processed and forwarded to you, this will identify any monies outstanding as of COB Friday 3 April 2020. We will also cease automatic Direct Debits as of COB 3 April 2020 and will be in touch with you in regard to how we will be progressing with any outstanding amounts still requiring to be paid.

No further direct debits will be made on your accounts from Monday 6 April 2020 until further notice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your OOSH supervisor or myself directly on [tracey.sweetman@stnicholasoosh.org.au](mailto:tracey.sweetman@stnicholasoosh.org.au).

Yours sincerely

**Tracey Sweetman**  
General Operations Manager

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