



Principal's Message

Dear Parents

Its been a long eleven weeks but finally we've all come through it relatively unscathed. I start this welcome back by saying the COVID will be with us forever now and its time that we start to learn to live with it.

It was with great excitement that the children returned yesterday and it was a very noisy playground (and staff lunchroom) but it was music to our ears. The buzz in the classrooms was electric with children and teachers excited to see each other and to catch up.

As you are aware we are still under Level 3+ at the moment and that means that no non-essential visitors are allowed on site. I want to thank you in advance for respecting and understanding that the situation is fluid and that the school will be required to respond appropriately to any changes. I will notify the parent body of any changes as they come to my attention.

So in line with the Level 3+ protocols you will notice that we have implemented a more stringent pick up process at Royal Street. You will be required to use the QR code or sign in, then show your vaccination status before collecting your child. This is to maintain the safety of all concerned. Please respect our efforts.

As we are all in this together I would ask you to contact the office if you or your family become aware of any contact that you may have that could impact our school community with relation to COVID 19. All information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

Congratulations

Audrey B from Year 5 was recently selected to represent her dance school, National College of Dance at the Australian classical challenge in February 2022 to be held at the Sydney Opera House. She will be performing a solo dance in each category, classical and contemporary.

This is a photo from her last eisteddfod in which she achieved first place.

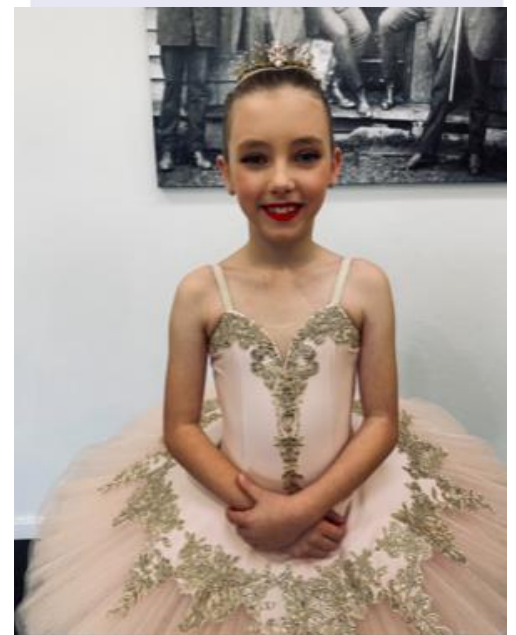
Duilio Rufo
Principal

Dates to Remember

4TH NOV YR 5 LEADERSHIP DAY

**12 NOV KINDER ORIENTATION/
TRANSITION**

**19 NOV SOCKTOBER
LOTUS**



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

Assistant Principals Message

Welcome Back! It is so wonderful to have our students and staff back at school. The buzz at school today is amazing. A very BIG thank you to all the parents/carers for all your support through this period of home learning, especially as the majority of you were working from home yourselves. We are looking forward to the next 8 weeks of face-to-face learning.

COVID Restrictions

We still need to ensure we adhere to all the COVID restrictions, to ensure our school community is safe. Any child with cold and flu symptoms must stay home and have a COVID test, a negative result needs to be sent to the school prior to your child returning. Parents/guardians are permitted to enter the school office for emergencies only. In these situations, you must sign in using the QR code and present your double vaccination certificate.

Event Planning

All Catholic School in the Newcastle area (as well as surrounding areas) and under Level 3+ restrictions, according to the Catholic Schools NSW "Return to School" Roadmap. At this level, the focus is on a staged return to school, with segregated play areas for children. The planning of events, is dependent on whether we move to different levels of the roadmap. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we look at options for many events, such as excursions, incursions, external sports, Orientation and Year 6 Graduation etc. At this stage, Kindergarten Orientation/Transition is planned for **Friday 12 November**. However, should restrictions be either eased or increased, this may need to be further amended.

Semester 2 Reports

Due to home learning being in place for 8-9 weeks, the Catholic Schools Office have put in place modified reports for Semester 2. The reports will include the core subjects of Religious Education, English and Mathematics, with the grading system of Working Towards, Working At, Working Above grade level. There will be **NO** A-E grades for Semester 2. The reports will also include Commitment to Learning, Personal and Social Development and Learning Dispositions. Teachers will also provide a general comment on your child's learning this Semester. At this stage, reports will be sent home via Compass at the end of Week 10. If you are unable to access Compass, please notify the school so alternate arrangements can be made.

Classes for 2022

The teachers have begun to plan classes for 2022. The teachers work together, with input from the learning support staff, to look at academic, social and emotional aspects of each child. Children also have the opportunity to identify close friends that they would like to be in a home room with. If you have any concerns or considerations you would like the school to be aware of, please notify me as soon as possible on kaylene.maretich@mn.catholic.edu.au.

Survey Responses

Please remember to complete the "Tell Them From Me" survey. The link is <http://tellthemfromme.com/stnl>. The closing date has been extended to 12th November.

Kaylene Maretich
Assistant Principal



RE News

This week is our first week as a whole school community back together. We welcomed all the children from K-6 back to St Therese's and acknowledge, after these challenging past weeks, the gift that face-to-face teaching and learning is! Whilst we are excited, we also acknowledge that this may be an anxious and uncertain time for many of our children and families.

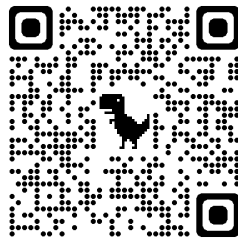
Let us, therefore, gather around our faith and remain united as one, trusting in The Spirit to help guide us walk through each new and uncertain moment.

Please also remember that we will continue to offer an online **Prayer Liturgy & Assembly each Friday afternoon on Zoom at 2:30pm.**

We would love to see as many of our parents possible, reunite with us in this way!

ID: 665 1680 0085 **Password:** 004617

Socktober – Catholic Missions Fundraiser. If you wish to know more or make a donation to this great cause, please visit **our school 'Socktober' page**, by using the link or QR Code below. We still have a long way to go towards our school goal of \$2,000.



<https://www.socktober.org.au/fundraisers/StTheresesPrimarySchoolNewLambton>



Faith Matters – Some of you may have been reading the weekly 'Faith Matters' bulletin that has been put out each Monday during our period of Home Learning. This will continue to be distributed each Monday via Compass and/or email, so please refer to this for any further Faith formation prayers or reflections.

Luke Smith,
Religious Education Coordinator

Loving God,
We pray for our school community as
some of us come back together
face-to-face today;
We share anxiety and excitement as we
walk through the gates.
May we greet each other with
tenderness, as we all have our own stories
of being through this difficult time of
lockdown.
Bless our teachers and school leaders as
they do their best to bring us together
again.
May our learning be fruitful and our
classrooms productive, as we settle back
into our routine.
Amen



School Fees

Thank you to those families who have returned their 2022 school fee information sheet. If you do not have a child returning to St Therese's next year, there is no need to complete this for us (although you will need to give it to your high school). If you are yet to complete it, please email it to admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au asap.

For those parents with a student in year 6, I will shortly be emailing out a fee clearance if you have finalised your fees. For those Year 6 families who have not finalised their fees, please contact the school directly on 4957 4922 to organise your fee clearance for high school.

ASPIRE

Unfortunately, due to COVID, Aspire has been cancelled for this year. For those families who had already paid you will receive a credit on your account. For any families who have paid in full and are leaving the school at the end of this year, a refund will be organised. I will contact those families directly.

Vicki McSpadden
Bursar

School Community News

Canteen News

Welcome back to all our volunteers. It is lovely to have help again and the kids will really enjoy seeing you back at school. Volunteers need to wear a mask and show their vaccination certificate to the front office as they sign in.

I'm in the process of developing the 2022 roster. If you can help in the canteen once a month for a few hours in the morning, please let me know.

If you are currently on the roster, I will assume you are OK to remain on your current day, so you don't need to do anything. Please let me know if you are no longer able to be on the roster or wish to change days. Also, if you are a year 6 parent and will no longer have children at the school next year, can you please remind me. Thanks so much.

Belinda (0447 509 968)
Canteen Supervisor

