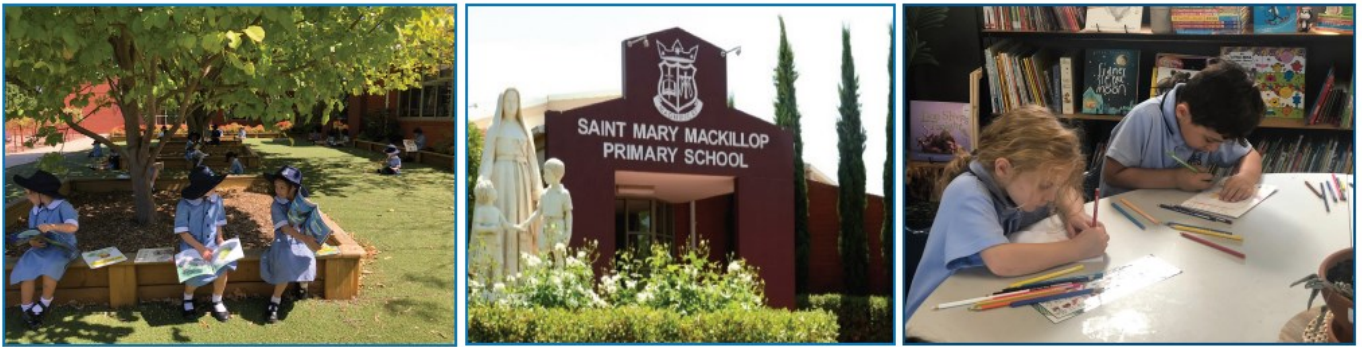


Wednesday 13 May, 2020

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

152 Odessa Avenue Keilor Downs, Vic 3038 www.mmkeilordowns.catholic.edu.au T: 03 9367 6199



Staying Connected... Update 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot thank you enough for all your support during these past few weeks of Remote Learning. I appreciate the efforts you have taken to ensure your children have remained engaged with their learning over this time. I continue to be amazed by the many posts of your children's work or of children at work that have been made every day to SeeSaw. The children's engagement in their learning is a credit to them and to you, as I know it would not happen without your support. **THANK YOU!**

THANK YOU to our teachers who have gone above and beyond to ensure they have provided Remote Learning for your children. Our Learning Grids have been a big success and the feedback the teachers have offered to many of the posts made by your children has provided the children and possibly you (if you have read the feedback) with an idea of how your children are achieving with their learning. The amount of work our teachers have put in over the past weeks, as we navigated this entirely new approach to learning has been sincerely appreciated by me, and I trust by you and the children. We have some of the best teachers here at SMMPS!

AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS... SCHOOLS BACK!

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) have advised that schools can begin a phased return to onsite schooling.

In the first stage, students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2, will return to school from Tuesday 26 May.

All other students in those year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

For those students who cannot be supervised at home for whatever reason, the existing model of onsite schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. The current process that we are using to enable parents and carers to indicate the days or part-days for which supervision is required will continue for this two-week period.

In the second stage of the return to onsite schooling, all other year levels (Years 3-6) will return to school from Tuesday 9 June.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to onsite schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan.

This same approach is being taken by all Catholic and government schools in Victoria.

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, Friday 22 May and Monday 25 May will be student-free days. There will be no Remote Learning on either of these days and the school will not be open to supervise children.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice to all schools that will be made available in coming days. These will apply until further notice. **I will provide more details about our local school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:**

- adjusted arrangements for drop-off and pick-up.
- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students.
- the way we conduct parent–teacher meetings and interviews
- if your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.
- the school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent handwashing.

Whilst some of these changes will prove inconvenient, my concern is to support the health and wellbeing of all staff and students.

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the CECV website, which will continue to be updated:

www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom.

Keep well and keep safe everybody,



Anthony McCluskey

Principal