

Wednesday 8 July, 2020

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected... No. 14

Hello Everyone,

Here we go again... it looks like we have a new normal! In many ways the year 2020 will be the year that wasn't; yet it is certainly a year we will never forget!

By now you would be aware that Metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire is in 'lockdown' again, from midnight tonight (8 July) for 6 weeks until 11.59pm on Wednesday 19 August 2020. The Coronavirus has got away from us! I'd be thinking if we didn't take the virus too seriously first time around, we certainly need to take it seriously this time around. Our state is in peril; families are suffering and frustrated, families are separated, some families are actually locked in their homes, employment is at risk, businesses are closing, people are lonely, people who have underlying health issues are concerned, all educational institutions, SMMPS included, have to rethink how they provide an education for the next 6 weeks and if we are not careful, our health system may become overloaded. Our wonderful Australian lifestyle is being challenged. However, we all must adjust to this new normal and work together to get this virus back under control.

Perhaps too, as people of faith, a few prayers asking for a vaccine sooner than later might not go astray.

I await directives from the Department of Education and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria. When I receive these directives, and I anticipate that will be today or tomorrow, I will communicate with you again.

At this time though, what I can tell you is as follows:

- **All children have been given another week's holiday. The school term starts for all children on Monday 20 July 2020.**

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- **All teachers will be working onsite as of Monday 13 July for preparing for Remote Learning.**
- **I would imagine that we will provide a similar Remote Learning program,** however there are a few adjustments we have identified and that we will make as needed.

I have sincerely appreciated your support and positivity as we have constructed and managed this new way of learning. I also appreciate your diligence and commitment in supporting your children as they learn at home.

I fully appreciated that this way of learning is not ideal, but it is our reality, as it is for children in many countries all over the world.

SMMPS will continue to do our best to provide a quality learning program for your children.

More than ever, we call on the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Mary MacKillop to protect our City and State and restore it to health.

Keep safe and keep well everyone.



Anthony McCluskey

Principal