



Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to thank you for your support, understanding and cooperation over the past two weeks as our children have returned to school. I understand that the sudden change in policy and expectations would have been unsettling and stressful for many families and the trust you have shown in the school to ensure the wellbeing and learning of your child has been greatly valued by me.

At our Parents and Friends executive meeting on Monday night the gratitude and appreciation expressed from the parent group towards the school staff was very affirming. It matched perfectly with the many conversations I have had personally with families at the school gate, across the road and on the telephone.

I know that you understand how hard this time has been for the teachers and all who work in our school and I am so very proud of them and in awe of their adaptability, resilience and pastoral care of one another. We are truly blessed.

Staffing News:

Whilst the start of the year 2020 has brought fires, floods and pandemics, it has also brought the joyous 'pitter-patter of little feet' for a number of our staff. A wonderful gift for us all at this challenging time.

In Term One, Mrs Rachel Paine and her family welcomed their fourth child Spencer to their family.



Mrs Maryanne Churchill and her husband Kyle were blessed with their first child, Willow.



And since our last newsletter, Mrs Claire Harman and her husband Michael have brought their first child Louis into the world.



We wish all these beautiful people the very best and are looking forward to restrictions being relaxed so we can meet the newest members of our St Mary MacKillop School family face to face.

In addition to these new arrivals, we also had the wonderful news that Miss Wotherspoon got engaged during the school holidays. We wish her and her fiancé all the blessings in the world as they move to this new chapter of their lives together.



News from Scott—Continued

To ensure the safety and well-being of all our students and staff as well as the effective education of our students, the following processes will apply at school.

Remote Learning: From Monday 25th May, our school will not be able to offer 'remote learning' through our on-line platforms (Seesaw and Google Classroom). Whilst the teachers have been dedicated to providing quality learning both remotely and on-site, it is not sustainable for them as numbers at school are so large. The workload they have been carrying raises concerns for me around their ongoing welfare .

Social Distancing: Social distancing between adults will continue to be a priority (teacher - teacher, Teacher - parent, Parent - parent). We need to continue to maintain a gap of 1.5 metres between adults. **Only staff are permitted on our school site at this time.**

Parent enquiries must be made through the office and parents must not come onto the playground or classrooms. There are no published requirements for student to student or student to staff social distancing however, we intend to promote as much distancing as is practicable without negatively impacting teaching and learning. For example; we cannot provide each child with their own desk when our classes are full but we will be creative in seating children with the maximum space possible.

Hygiene: We will continue with our existing hygiene and cleaning practices at school. Each classroom has multiple bottles of sanitiser for student hands. Every classroom also has a soap dispenser and sink. Cleaning will continue every day with a focus on disinfection and sanitisation.

Please be assured that the health and safety of our students and staff continue to be our highest priority.

Scott Buchan
Principal
St Mary MacKillop Primary School

School Fees

Instalment 2 School Fees have now been issued and mailed to your home/billing address. If you have not received your statement, please make contact with the school office.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during this time. Payments through the office can be paid by **EFTPOS**. When paying by BPay, Bpoint & Post BillPay please use the current statement. Details are located on the bottom of the statement.

We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

Fee Relief

Fee Relief for families financially affected by COVID-19 Fee relief is available to support families who are experiencing significant financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. There are three ways that parents/carers can apply for fee relief with the process made as simple as possible.

Information is available on the CEDP website and is also available via the link <https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/Our%20Schools/School%20Fees/Fee%20Relief>

The page includes a list of 'Frequently Asked Questions'.

We're here to help. Please contact our Senior Finance Officer, Mrs Monique Kearins on 02 4724 3200 if you have any questions

PM eCollection Home Readers

All students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 have access to online reading texts from PM eCollection. Please use the links below to find out how to access these books from your devices at home. Your child will bring home their log in details and then you can get started together. PM eCollection, along with the Home Readers from the classroom, are providing students with a greater range of books and opportunities to engage with texts.

Happy Reading!

Mrs Niamh McDonald
Diversity Teacher
Literacy Teacher
<https://app.pmecollection.com.au/>

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1jt02a8pmrrgvk/AADpgQy7Mb7Nvik12XFMgM_Fa/Using%20Bookshelf%20as%20a%20Student.mp4?dl=0

<https://cengage.com.au/primary/browse-series/pm/pmecollection/pm-ecollection-support>

Change of Details

Have you recently moved or changed your contact details. The fastest and easiest way to update your details is via our Skoolbag App. Click on our school logo and under the EForms section complete the change of details form which we be emailed to our school once you have submitted this.

Of course if you do not have the Skoolbag App come into the office and ask for a change of details form.



Kindergarten 2021 Enrolments

Kindergarten enrolment interviews for 2021 are almost finished! We are almost at capacity for both our classes.

If you have a child starting Kindergarten next year or you know of a family seeking enrolment for Kindergarten 2021 please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Thanks to all of the families who have participated in our recent interviews.



Afternoon Pick Up

Please pick up all children at 3pm across the road in the park. Do not come into the playground to collect your child or take them from lines as this creates safety issues for our children.

The teacher on duty will bring any children who are not collected from the park by 3.05pm up to the school playground onto our waiters line.

If your child is on waiters, they can be collected from the playground between 3.10pm—3.30pm

Thank you for caring for our staff and kids.

Subscribing to the KIT (Keeping In Touch)

Our school newsletter is only sent home in hard copy for kindergarten the first newsletter of the year.

The newsletter is available by subscribing on the schools website www.mackilloppenrith.catholic.edu.au select News & Events> Newsletter and click on subscribe to our online newsletter, complete the form, you will then receive the newsletter each fortnight via email. You can also view the newsletter on the website under current issue.

Skool Bag App Instructions

For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).

School Communication

APPOINTMENTS

If parents have matters of concern, questions or difficulties, staff are available to assist. The first point of contact is the child's class teacher, followed by the Stage Co-ordinator.

To ensure availability please phone the office to make an appointment. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher regarding his/her progress it is necessary to make an appointment before or after school. Appointments with class teachers can only be made outside of school hours. Parents are asked not to disturb classes - if there is an emergency please go to the office.

Is this safe?



PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL



- DO NOT **SHARE** FOOD
- **WASH HANDS**
AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
- **ASK QUESTIONS** IF YOU ARE UNSURE
OF "SAFE" FOODS.
- READ **ALL** INGREDIENT LABELS.

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www.beyondapeanut.com
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

Thank you
for helping us
provide a safe environment
for our friends with food allergies!