



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

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Our Lady's Primary School is a child safe school. All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe.

NEWSLETTER NO. 13 TUESDAY MAY 19TH 2020

Lockdown by Irish Fransiscan brother Brother Richard:

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet, the sky is no longer thick with fumes,
but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi, people are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping
their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today many people are busy spreading fliers with their numbers through their neighbourhood, so that the
elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the
sick, the weary.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.

All over the world people are waking up to a new reality.

To how big we really are. To how little control we really have.

To what really matters. To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear. But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation. But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease of the soul.

Yes there is even death. But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic. The birds are singing again, The sky is clearing,
and we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul

And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,

Sing.

Our Lady's Primary School is committed to child safety and the inclusion of all children.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed so much to addressing the recent changes to supporting the learning of our students. I'm not sure words can adequately convey the enormity of the task that was undertaken and my gratitude to all involved in any way. Let's hope that we have now moved to a position where we get back to what could be considered as normal.

Last week the state government announced the staged return of students to Victorian schools. These arrangements require a number of changes to be made to the way we, as a community, will function for the next phase of dealing with the COVID 19 virus. It might take us a little while to settle into the new rhythm of school life as a result of these adjustments. I have great faith that if we have a 'best intentions' and a 'learn as we go approach' in a short while we will establish routines that will keep us safe as well as allowing for the school to function effectively. The staged return will be as follows:

- Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 students onsite from next Tuesday 26 May 2020
- VCE and VCAL Year 11 and 12 students (and Year 10 students undertaking VCE studies for VCE classes where practicable) onsite from Tuesday 26 May 2020
- all students enrolled in specialist schools onsite from Tuesday 26 May 2020
- students in Years 3 to 10 continued remote and flexible learning program
- students in Years 3 to 10, for whom no other appropriate arrangements can be made, and students who are vulnerable, being supervised onsite with continued remote and flexible learning program.

General Expectations

Attendance

Once a year level has returned it is expected that all students will attend school as normal. All support for remote learning will stop unless there is medical advice that compromises a return to school at this time.

Water Bottles

All students will need to have a water bottle at school every day. The drink taps are turned off as students are not allowed to use these.

Drop Off and Pick Up Arrangements

The main focus for drop off and pick up is to avoid adults coming into the school grounds or congregating at the school. Please consider your best drop off and pick up options and clearly convey these to your child. All families are asked to either use a bus service, have the students, where appropriate, ride or walk or if using a car drop off at the entrance beside the hall or at the White Street gate where initially staff will meet them. School will finish at the usual time 3:10pm. Adults picking children up are asked to arrive as close to 3:10pm as possible and stay in their car. Students will be escorted to the bus or should wait at the White Street gate or at the hall. If you are going to be late for a pick up please contact the school.

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Students entering the school

Hand sanitiser will be set up at the entrances to all classrooms. Students are asked to use the entrance where they usually line up at the start of each morning to both enter and exit the building.

Adults entering the school

All adults must use the front entrance and you must also ring the school to arrange entry or to pick a student up prior to arriving.

Health Management

All students will be required to practise good hand hygiene at all times.

Additional cleaning will be undertaken.

All students who are ill or feeling the slightest bit unwell must stay home.

Computers and chargers

Over the past few weeks we have arranged for a large number of computers and chargers to be used at home. As students return to classroom based learning you must return your child's computer and charger to the office.

Support for minimising touching at school

Whilst the expectations for physical distancing have been eased at school for students, we will be asking children to minimise physical contact in the next few months. It would help our task greatly if families were able to discuss this with their students and emphasise the need to support this expectation.

PUPIL FREE DAY –MONDAY MAY 25TH

This coming Monday May 25th will be a **Pupil Free day for all students**. Staff will use this day to plan for the return of Foundation/One/Two students the following day.

FOUNDATION/ONE/TWO STUDENTS RETURN

Students in Foundation/One/Two resume classes at school next Tuesday May 26th.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday June 8th is the Queen's Birthday Public Holiday.

GRADE THREE – SIX STUDENTS RETURN DATE

All students in Grade Three to Six will resume classes at school on Tuesday June 9th.

OUT OF HOURS SCHOOL CARE (OHSC)

Due to the suspension of the Child Care Rebate system announced by the Federal Government during the last school holidays, our OHSC program will (for the foreseeable future) only be available to students whose parents are required to be **working** past 3.10pm – and - only for those days that your child/children had a permanent booking for as at the end of Term One.

We will let you know when this situation reverts back to normal. If you have any queries please contact Julie.

PROJECT COMPASSION /EASTER EGG RAFFLE

Our Easter Egg raffle will be drawn on Thursday June 11th so if you still have tickets at home you can send them into the office when your child/children return to classes.

We have already sent off our 2020 donation to Caritas for \$361-75 which comprised \$181-25 from our Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast and \$180-50 from the Easter Egg raffle ticket sales prior to the holidays. Any funds that come in now for the raffle will be sent to Catholic Mission later in the year.

Mark

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday	May 25th	Pupil Free Day (students <u>NOT required</u> to do home based learning)
Tuesday	May 26 th	Foundation/One/Two students resume classes at school 8.45am
Monday	June 8th	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday	June 9 th	Year Three/Four/Five Six students resume classes at School 8.45am
Thursday	June 11 th	Easter Egg Raffle drawn
Friday	June 26 th	End of Term Two
Monday	July 13 th	Start of Term Three

