

Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Thank you for all your support during these past few weeks of remote and flexible learning.

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. To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, **Monday 25 May will be a student-free day.**

In the *second stage* of our return to onsite schooling, all other year levels will return to school from Tuesday 9th June. ***Those students in Years 3-6 who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, 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 for which onsite schooling is required will continue for this two-week period. All other students in those year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

So in Phase 1 when Prep- Year 2 students have returned, all students in these grades 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. From the 9th of June, all year levels are expected at school and we will no longer be running a remote learning program through our school. This does not apply to children who need to be absent for serious health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact me so we can make an appropriate plan.

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

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent handwashing. If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, **they must not attend school**. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

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 own school context as soon as possible, but it is important to note that changes will include:

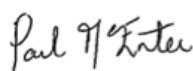
- adjusted arrangements for drop-off and pick-up, which may include staggered school start and finish times. At this stage I am considering utilizing different drop off and pick up points for Prep -2 students keeping the same starting and finishing times.
- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students.

I 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 students back to the classroom.

Yours sincerely

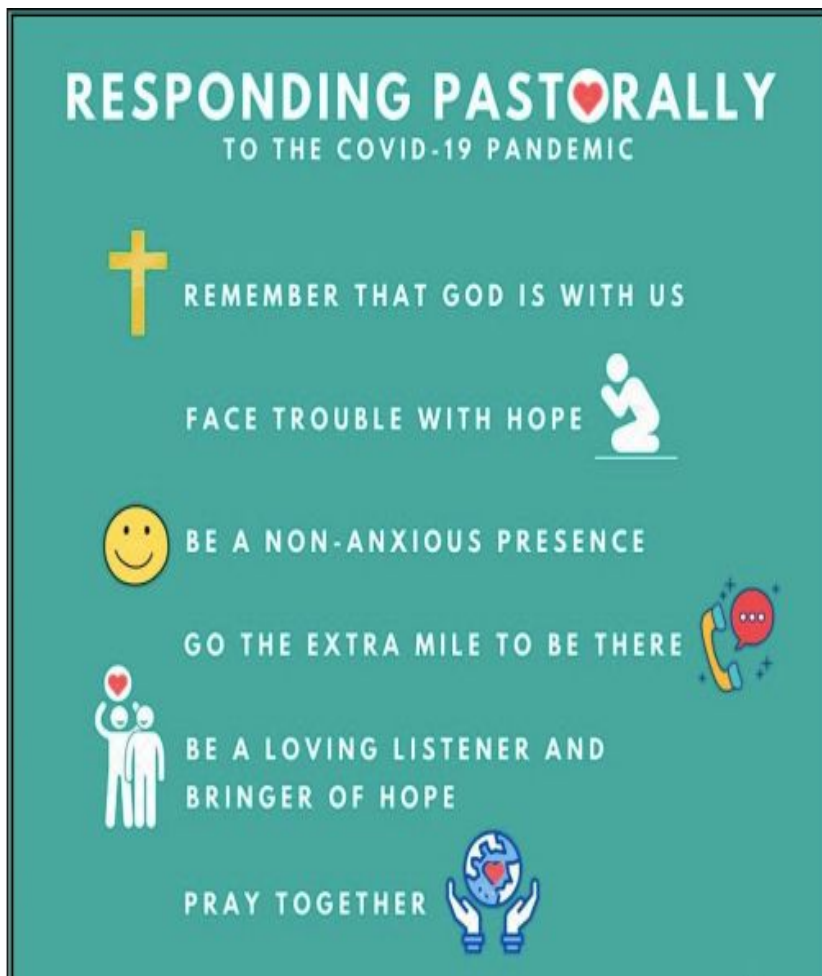


Paul McEntee
Principal

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

Birthday wishes to all these children who celebrate their birthday this week: Milana 3T, Mia Prep H, Aiden 5H, Mira 3W, Sanya 5N, Alexia 6C, Reubin 2S, Sam Prep H, Joshua 6C, Diego 3T, Alessia 2M

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!



As we begin to move out of the restrictions relating to COVID-19 in a safe, cautious and appropriate manner may we continue to pray for...

patience to continue to live in a way that is thoughtful of the health needs of others,

wisdom to make decisions that continue to be mindful of the wellbeing of our community, kindness to show others that they are considered and valued, and

hope that our community can be a place of love,

consideration and health for all.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

A number of queries have been received regards re-scheduling of dates for both the preparation evenings and the celebrations. At this stage no further information about new dates is available from the Parish until Covid restrictions are altered. Information will be shared as soon as we receive it.



STUDENT WELLBEING @ OUR LADY'S

...PROVIDING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



TRANSITIONING BACK INTO SCHOOL.....

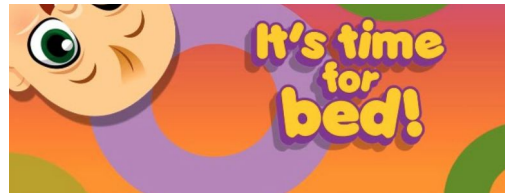
Children and families have been at home for just over 7 weeks. Being at home has been different and the way in which the day starts, ends and all the things that happen in between, have been very different to the usual way we learn at school.

Now is the most important time to wean back into school life

Some important suggestions from experts in the area of child psychology:

1. Set up a back to school routine

- Re-establish the bedtime (9 – 11 hours sleep) and mealtime routines (Breakfast, brain food, lunch, recess).
- Adjust the amount of time children are spending on devices. Children shouldn't be on devices during school hours unless for learning purposes.
- Create a visual chart about what needs to be done to get ready and practise this in the week leading up to going back to school (including waking up, eating breakfast, getting dressed etc.)
- Allow plenty of extra time in the morning to get ready for school children are re-establishing. This will reduce the stress and of potentially being late.



while
routine.
anxiety

2. Talk about going back to school

- Ask children what they are looking forward to and what their concerns are
- Encourage children to ask questions and provide reassuring answers. If a child is feeling anxious listen to their concerns, let them know it's normal feel a little nervous about returning to school but reinforce their ability to cope.
- Suggest some coping strategies – breathing techniques, distraction etc...



to

3. Children will transition more easily back to school if they have maintained social connections with their friends.



It's not too late for parents to organise phone calls or video chats with children's classmates.



Re: Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the *NCCD guidelines* (2019).

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy](https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy) (<https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy>).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the [NCCD Portal](https://www.nccd.edu.au) (<https://www.nccd.edu.au>).

If you have any questions about the NCCD, please contact the school.

A MESSAGE FROM MOUNT RIDLEY P – 12 COLLEGE

Dear Year 6 families,

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we were unable to hold our Year 7 2021 information session. To assist families with making the big decision of choosing a school we have created a short 12 minute presentation. This will provide an insight into Year 7 here at Mount Ridley College.

Please click on this link <https://screencast-o-matic.com/watch/cYhhiGBPop> to view our presentation.

Further information about the College can be found on our website: www.mountridleycollege.vic.edu.au

If you have any questions regarding Year 7 in 2021 please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Belinda Tirant, Director of Student Engagement Strategies (Junior Years) via email:
tirant.belinda.b@edumail.vic.gov.au