

**Friday 24th July 2020**

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome back to a new term but unfortunately a not so new school experience. Remote and flexible learning has returned to the majority of our families. Last week our staff prepared for our Home Education Learning Program version 2 (HELP-2). I want to thank all families who have supported the establishment of the program for term 3. We were able to distribute over 660 devices plus other requirements for the program, and extra special thanks to our students, who with the support of their teachers and parents were able to commence the program this week. Our attendance numbers are excellent and we have almost all students experiencing an online program connecting with their class teacher and their classmates.

As mentioned last week there were a number of objectives we identified as areas for improvement after reviewing the HELP program of last term,

- A school device for ALL students.
- A greater focus on teachers connecting online and working with their students as a whole class or small groups throughout the day.
- Less expectation on parents to be actively involved in the learning process, other than ensuring their children are online at the required times throughout the day.
- Greater allowance for set break times for the students throughout the day.
- Placing a greater emphasis on providing new learning that is engaging and personalised for students.
- Individual online support for students who have been identified as needing additional support.
- Ensuring that students have a plentiful supply of the required books.

As we complete the first week of term 3 HELP-2, I am confident that we have achieved many of our objectives and this is due to the support of our families and our staff: thank you for your efforts during these challenging times.

**Statue of Mary of the Southern Cross** : Marim Elia our Religious Education Leader has placed on COMPASS a video outlining the development of our new statue that proudly stands in our new office area. Here is the link to follow Mary's journey to our school. Thanks Marim for all your efforts in ensuring our school has a unique image of Mary for all to celebrate. Please follow the link: [Our Lady of the Southern Cross](#)



*Birthday wishes to all these children who celebrate their birthday*

*this week and also last week: Holly 2A, Hannah 6A, Chloe 1G,*

*Christian Prep D, Antonios 2L, Maya 4P, Joshua 3N, Mark 5N,*

*Romeo Prep C, Nathaniel 5H, Sonia 4C, Lennox 2A, Lourde 4C,*

*Alana Prep D, Katya 5N, Carlos 3B, Aytana 4C, Liam Prep D, Jayden 1M, Kailan 6C, Julianne 3N*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL**

**Term 3 Events/Calendar:** All events that were scheduled for this term have been cancelled. We did have school photos arranged for next week and we reschedule for next term. I know many families have already paid for their 2020 school photos and they will get photos next term. I have been informed by the parish that the sacramental celebrations of Reconciliation and First Eucharist have been cancelled for 2020. No news as yet for Confirmation.

This is a very challenging time for our community and our school is here to support all our families and especially your children in supporting their wellbeing and providing learning opportunities in unique circumstances.

Thank you for your ongoing support of all of our staff and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at this time. [principal@olps.vic.edu.au](mailto:principal@olps.vic.edu.au)

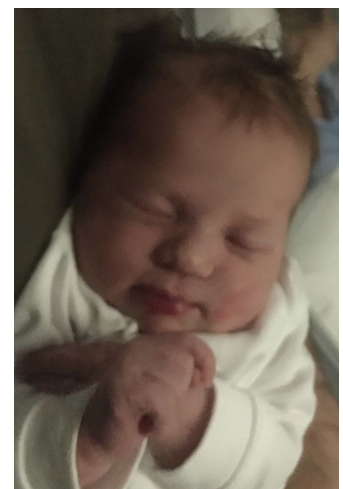
Take Care, and remember Super Heroes wear masks - are you ?

Paul McEntee  
Principal



**FROM THE NEW BABY 'S DESK:**

**Congratulations to Mr Walsh on the safe arrival of Eleanor Patricia last Friday- Mum and baby all doing well , Dad struggling !!!!**



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

I read an article the other day about a community that uses the following prayer at the end of their Prayers of the Faithful during their liturgy. The words resonated with me and so, in what is called the Ordinary season of the church and the extraordinary time in our world, I felt that it was a fitting meshing of the two.

And we pray to our loving God who guides our everyday...

“...that this time of crisis will soon pass  
and leave behind it  
a world richer in mercy,  
brighter with care for the vulnerable  
and more thankful for those who gladly give their lives to  
serve others.”

#kindness is catching

We can all do something to spread kindness



## Sacrament Programs of Eucharist and Reconciliation

We are certainly living from day to day and unable to plan ahead in this current situation.

So rather than wondering what the future is for Sacraments 2020, the Parish has made a decision that First Reconciliation and First Communions be cancelled for this year. We will advise you of any other updates we receive.

We pray that this time passes soon and we have the opportunity to celebrate with our students and families together again.

## This Sunday's Gospel

**Matthew 13:44-52**

**44** “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. **45** “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. **46** When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. **47** “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. **48** When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. **49** This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous **50** and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **51** “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied. **52** He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

### Commentary

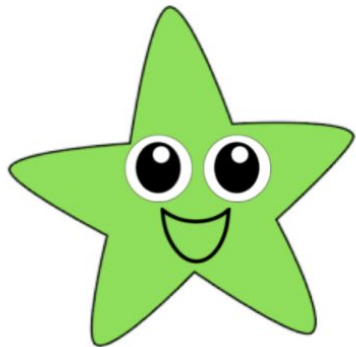
The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

## GOSPEL CHALLENGE

# GIVE UP A BAD HABIT

## STUDENT WELLBEING @ OUR LADY'S

...PROVIDING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



### How to talk to your children about coronavirus

- *A psychologist has shared her tips on how to keep children's anxiety over the coronavirus at bay*
- *She says children should be shielded from rolling news and it's important to translate essential information into terms they understand*
- *Teaching kids what they can do to keep themselves and others safe is a positive way to make them feel empowered*

***Ms Bagley-Jones recommends parents talk to their children to ensure they are getting accurate information, rather than needing to address misinformation and rumours coming from classmates or online.***

She said that younger children should not be listening to news broadcasts about the virus, and that parents need to shield children from the news by translating what they need to know in a more appropriate way.

"Don't have the TV on while they're present," she said.

"We don't know what facts or information is going to get rolled out and we're not going to be able to buffer it."

## **How to help your children**

Here are Ms Bagley-Jones' tips for discussing COVID-19 with your children:

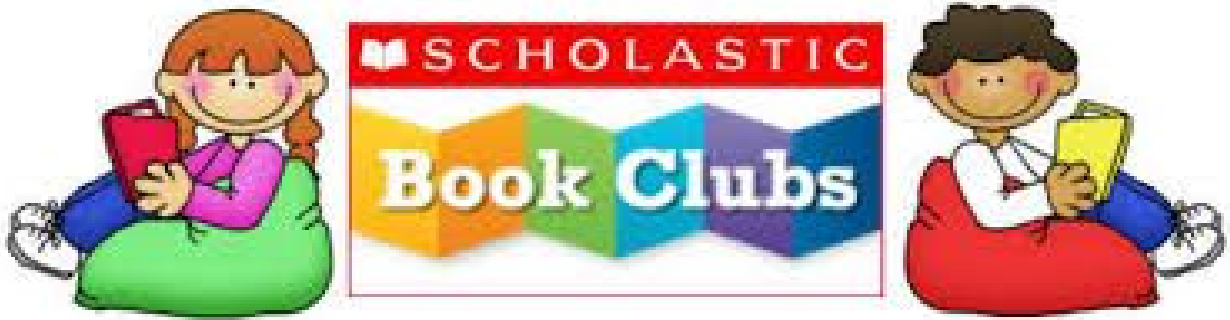
- Assess what they know already. Find out what they understand so you know where to start
- Don't dismiss or minimise your child's fear – validate their concerns. It is reasonable to be concerned because they have probably never experienced anything like this before
- Make your explanation age appropriate, provide facts, and keep it positive. Tell them scientists and doctors are working on treatments. Reassure them that right now the risk of getting the coronavirus is low and most people only get cold-like symptoms
- Give them some control over what is happening. Teach the importance of handwashing and how to do it properly, remind them of their responsibility to protect others from coughs and sneezing. If they are very young, make a game of having good hygiene
- Make it an opportunity to learn. Talk about how our bodies fight viruses. Understanding the science can alleviate fears. Get them to do their own fact-checking on what they have heard at school
- Remind children that no-one should be ostracised or bullied because they have been associated with the virus
- Do not make it a one-time conversation. Keep checking in to see if they need reassurance or if they have any new questions

The potential spread of the coronavirus in the community is worrying for many parents.

Ms Bagley-Jones said it was important to remember our mental health as well as our physical health.

"While we've got to keep our kids safe from coronavirus, we've also got to keep them healthy mentally as well," she said.





We're really excited to have **BOOK CLUB** running this term!

But, there are a couple of things we've had to do differently!

**For this issue** it will be a **digital catalogue** rather than the printed catalogues you're used to receiving.

**To find the catalogue, go to:**

[https://scholastic.com.au/media/5642/bc\\_520.pdf](https://scholastic.com.au/media/5642/bc_520.pdf)

**Once you've made your selections, you can order through the LOOP page:**

<https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/Login.aspx>

**You will still have access to the wide selection that Book Club has to offer.**

**Go to LOOP to place your order as normal by:**

**Orders need to be completed by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
August**

***Unfortunately as we are unable to send orders back to your school, you will need to have your order delivered to your home address for a fee of \$5.99.***

