



Term 3 Week 5

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



10th August 2020

Welcome to Week 5

Dear Parents and Families,

I hope that you are all well and settled into remote learning V.2!

It certainly was a big week but staff, students and parents all calmly processed the news and worked together to ensure the first few days of remote learning were both positive and engaging for the students. As teachers and parents, we sometimes feel overwhelmed by the news about COVID-19 and the effects on our everyday lives. But, supporting learning and keeping a sense of normality and routine for kids is important, especially during these sudden school closures. As schools and teachers have worked very quickly to create our remote schedules, parents are doing an amazing job juggling many uncertainties including work situations and basic needs, all while trying to keep their kids engaged with learning at home.

Last week I sent a number of letters via PAM with correspondence regarding remote learning and all that is associated with it. If at any time you have a query please send me an email or give me a call at school. While I aim to provide you with all the information I think you might need, we will work our way through the uncertainties together.

Intervention and Wellbeing Support

Thanks to the efforts of Mardi and the LSO team, there have already been 100 plus families indicating they would like to receive a weekly session of intervention during remote learning. The Wellbeing team have also been busy contacting families and are also delivering their support to many of the children they work with on a weekly basis.

Casual Dress theme - Friday

We have a casual dress theme every Friday onsite as the kids wear their uniform on the other days. Theme this Friday - Hats 'n Caps

We are now on Instagram!!!

Corona-19 restrictions have meant that we virtually have no way to personally meet and talk to prospective families. This means social media is more important than ever for us to connect with the wider community and showcase all St Mary's has on offer. Follow our school and encourage others too, as it's a great way to show our wonderful school in action. #stmarysswanhill



Facebook and 2021 Enrolments

With remote learning back on this week we have created a series of videos that showcase the school, and highlight our Flying Start program, Come and try Mornings and what to expect as a Foundation family at St Mary's. These videos have proved very popular and are available on our school Facebook page. We are always adding to our videos on Facebook, the most recent is our School captains message to the school community as we started Remote learning.

There are many families in the wider community still undecided on a school for 2021. I encourage everyone to spread the word about our wonderful school and why you have chosen this school for your family.



Feast Day celebrations Saturday August 15th

This Saturday is a special one on our school calendar as we celebrate our school feast day with the Assumption of Mary Mass. Mary, mother of Jesus is a very important and special woman in our Catholic tradition and this feast honours her as "God's Mother"

COVID-19 assessment tools

The following online assessment tool is available on the DHHS website to help people determine if they should get tested for COVID-19, along with clinic details, an FAQ which includes a definition of a close contact and isolation/quarantine as well as a range of other information:

Getting tested for Coronavirus

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/getting-tested-coronavirus-covid-19>

On behalf of the staff, thank you for your support and continuous positive approach to remote learning at St Mary's. We can see that you, the parents, are making a huge effort to support remote learning, and we are very grateful to you for this.

Please continue to look out for updates from the school via your email and on our Facebook page throughout the week as these tools are our key ways to stay in touch.



Kate

Wellbeing

with Mrs Quin

Making smiles together

During our last lockdown, some of us were lucky enough to be in town where children (and adults) were decorating driveways with colour and love. We saw the rainbow trail and teddy bears in windows. The latest I've noticed around is *Spoonville*. These small acts help to keep us all connected whilst social distancing and being in 'lockdown'. How will you stay connected with others? How will you support your children to be part of a community?

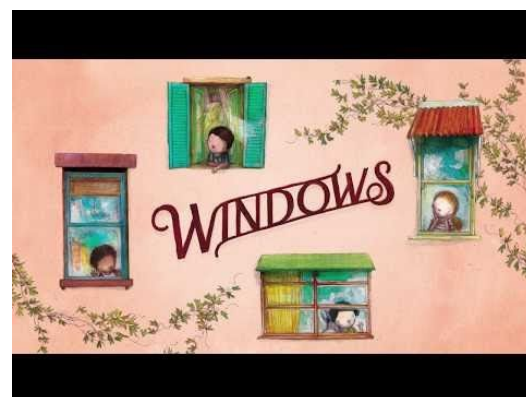


WINDOWS

Next week many of our classes will listen to this story.. They will look at ways to connect with people and places outside their own house. We can't wait to see what creations they come up with.

The video below is a joyous expression of the human spirit, borne out of the hardship of physical separation caused by the pandemic.

Windows tells the story of children stuck at home, who when looking out the window, are entertained by the shapes of passing clouds, neighbours playing music, and grandparents dancing and goofing around.



In part, it's the real life experience of the book's author Patrick Guest, a physio in close contact with the community, who has had to leave the family home twice to protect a son Noah, who has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, a progressive muscle weakness disorder. Patrick has returned home to talk and play with Noah through the window.

Source: <http://theparentswebsite.com.au>

<https://safeyoutube.net/w/oOwO>

Digital Technology with Mr Perry



Technology tips for parents

Apps for kids – do YOUR homework

More than 80,000 apps are labeled as educational, but little research has demonstrated their actual quality. Products pitched as "interactive" should require more than "pushing and swiping." Look to organizations like Common Sense Media for reviews about age-appropriate apps, games and programs to guide you in making the best choices for your children.

It's OK for your pre-teen to be online

Online relationships are now part of normal development. Social media can support pre-teens as they explore and discover more about themselves and their place in the grown-up world. Just be sure your pre-teen is behaving appropriately in both the real and online worlds. Many children need to be reminded that a platform's privacy settings do not make things actually "private" and that images, thoughts, and behaviors they share online will instantly become a part of their digital footprint indefinitely. Keep lines of communication open and let them know you're there if they have questions or concerns.

Curriculum News with Mrs Hall:

Take Home Readers

Take home readers for our children in F-3 have again been prepared for those families requiring extra readers. Each zip lock bag contains 10 books from the same level ie: Level A, B, C, D, E, F, G, or H as well as chapter books. Due to regulations, this time around if your family requires more readers feel free to contact the office to organise a time to collect one or two packets per student. We ask that you kindly return finished readers when swapping over so that they can be used as extra supplies to make more packs to go home in the near future. If you are unsure which level you need to collect for your child please make contact with your classroom teacher. Please feel free to start collecting from **Monday 10th August**.



Extra Library Books

If you would like a pack of books for your family from the library please email Lisa at landerson@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au. She will organise these and email you when they are ready for collection from the office. Happy reading!

Online Subscriptions:

At St. Mary's we have many online subscriptions to support our students in the area of Literacy and Numeracy.

Literacy

Sunshine Online which is a wonderful website containing hundreds of levelled texts. Children can log in and read along to stories and then complete associated interactive games and activities.

Username: smswanhill

Password: _smswanhill

Sunshine Classics is another digital literacy program with over 300 E- books and 1000 interactive language activities to enjoy.

Use the student login button to access this

Username : murlong

Password : murlong

Foundation children are supported by the **Phonics Hero** subscription with individualised codes with the focus on phonics, reading and spelling online interactive games. Our Year 1 children have individualised log in codes for **Reading Eggs**.

All individualised passwords have been sent home

Numeracy:

Yr 1's have access to **Mathseeds**. Mathseeds supports students aged 3-9 in core maths and problem solving skills with fun online maths games and activities.

The Year 2-6 students have individualised logins for **Mathletics**. Students have access to relevant content set by their teachers that will reinforce their learning and challenge them to go to the next level.

All individualised passwords have been sent home

Supporting Reading At Home

Reading a book at home

When listening to your child read at home, here are a few points to consider:

- If possible let your child choose the place for reading. Successful reading can happen on the floor, out the back, and in the cubby house!
- Encourage your child to hold the book so he or she becomes familiar with handling it (turning the pages, etc)
- The books being read at home can/should be read more than once as the repetition helps support the child's fluency and comprehension of his/her reading.
- The books can have a different focus for each reading - ie: Rereading for accuracy, fluency, comprehension, understanding of the storyline as well as for appreciation and enjoyment

Keeping children engaged

Because *some reading practice is better than no reading practice* - you may like to use one of the following strategies:

- Use a timer so that your child understands the reading practice will be for a short time.
- Read the book aloud to your child.
- Read the book aloud to your child but have your child read words that you know he/she can already read.
- Have your child point to the words while you read the words aloud.
- Read the book aloud together.
- Read half the book each.
- Put a sticky note a few pages ahead and tell your child they just need to read to the sticky note.
- Say, "I'll read it to you and then you can read it to me."
- Take it in turns to each read a page.
- When reading a story book, try changing the names of characters to your family's names!

Book Orientation: Talking about the book before reading

- Before reading a new book, talk about the title, and 'walk' through the book looking at the pictures and then predict what the story might be about.
- Discuss how to pronounce the names of characters and places in the book.
- If your child has already read the book, you may like to just ask what happened in the story? How did the story end?

The 3Ps: Pause, Prompt, Praise

Pause— Always allow time for your child to work out an unfamiliar/tricky word themselves, or at least give it a go (about 10 sec).

Prompt— Give a helpful prompt, for example:

"What would make sense here?"

"Have another go."

"Can the picture help you?"

"Can you see how the word starts?"

"Does that sound right?"

"Read to the end of the sentence. Any idea what the word might be?"

.....after two prompts **JUST TELL THEM THE WORD**

Praise— Always focus on what the child does well.

If your child makes a mistake, corrects it and keeps going...

- Praise **AT THE END OF THE READING**. Eg. "You went back and read that part again, that was great!"

If your child comes to a tricky word and pauses...

- Wait, Wait, Wait.... Ask some prompting questions suggested above.

If your child makes a mistake that makes sense...

- Let it go, then come back to it at the end and, repeat what they said and ask them to have another go.

If your child makes a mistake that does not make sense....

- Say the error back to them, does that make sense?

Talking about the book after reading.

- Can you remember the title?
- Were your predictions about the story correct?
- If there was a problem in the story, was it solved?
- What was your favourite part of the story?
- If you could change one thing in the story, what would it be?
- Can you retell the story in order?
- Which character would you like to be? Why?

RE News with Mrs Davies



This week marks a very special day in our Catholic Calendar with our St Mary's Feast Day - Assumption of Mary on the 15th August. As we approach the Feast of the Assumption, it is timely to reflect on Mary's life, her faith in God and how that resonates with our lives today. Mary inspires us to want to serve others generously and joyfully just as she did. On 15th August we honour Mary Mother of God. She is known as the first disciple, the mother of the Church and she is given to us all as an inspiring role model. This year we

celebrate 101 years of Catholic Education at St Mary's, from our humble beginnings back in 1919 with Miss Annie Hanrahan and 75 students to the rich and vibrant learning community we are today with over 560 students and 80 staff.



Administration News

Key Dates

Friday 14th August

Casual Dress Day onsite

Hats n' Caps theme

Tuesday 18th August

School Closure Day - no onsite supervision

Wednesday 9th September

Pupil Free Day - no onsite supervision

Staff PD day

Health reminder

A reminder that, in order to do our best to protect our community from contracting any virus, it is important to ensure that any unwell staff and students remain at home. If a child presents to the office expressing that they are unwell, or if their teacher feels that a child is displaying unwell symptoms, parents/carers will be called to collect them from school. It is important that in this current climate we are vigilant with the health of the community and take measures to make good decisions.

Absences during remote learning

Just a reminder that during remote learning, you still need to inform the office via PAM, phone or email if your child will not be in attendance on a particular day. This applies to both onsite students and remote learning students.

PAM User Guides

Keep an eye out on our weekly newsletter for PAM user guides. These step by step instructions will help you use PAM more effectively. If you are having difficulty with PAM, please call our office on 03 50332541.



PAM – How can I notify the school of my child’s absence via PAM?

By now you will have verified your email address and set up your child’s medical profile. You can now begin to use PAM (Parent Access Module) as part of your communication with our school office. PAM is our preferred notification method for absences.

On PAM, you can add an absence if;

- Your child is going to be absent for the day (All Day)
- Your child is going to be late to school (Arriving Late)
- Your child is going to be leaving early from school (Leaving Early)
- Your child will be leaving school and returning eg. for an appointment (Partial)
- Your child is going to be absent for more than one day (Multi-day max of 7 days)

Absences must be entered prior to 9.25am on the day your child will be absent. Absences can also be entered in advance.

To add an absence;

- Log in to your **PAM** account <http://pam.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au>

Save this link to your home screen for quick access

- Select “Parent Notified Absences” listed under “Students”. This can also be accessed by selecting the 3 line menu bar on the top right hand corner of the screen and selecting “Parent Notified Absence”.
- Select “Add Absence”
- Select the child who will be absent
- Select the reason for your child’s absence
- Select the appropriate absence period
- Select the absence date
- Notes can be added if required
- You can edit or delete current and future absences, by clicking on your child and amending it if required.

As always, please contact the office on 03 50332541 if you need any assistance with PAM.



Happy Birthday

August 10th

Miley S

August 11th

Indy C, Luke P

August 13th

Zyma A

August 14th

Joseph B, Mohi G,

Braxton W

August 16th

Seth H



Foundation Celebrates 100 days

Last week our Foundation students celebrated all of their amazing learning on their 100th day of school. As we went into remote learning we were unable to celebrate as per usual so the Foundation students completed some activities on Monday at school and then on Wednesday at home with their families. We are very proud of our Foundation students and all their learning completed in their 100 days at St. Mary's.



Happy 100 Days of School!!!

100 Days of School!