



**MATER DEI
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Mater Dei Matters

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK – CHRIS BARTLETT



The first week of our Home Education Program has been a great learning journey for all of us. Amid some challenges around process, communication and technology it has turned out to be predominately a successful week. This is credited to our staff, students and parents for exercising flexibility, patience and the will to give things a go and learn differently. These fundamental actions give us more growth as a school community than just focussing on curriculum content. As a result, I am truly humbled by the way our community has pulled together to make our situation work as best as possible. I would also like to thank you for the positive and thoughtful feedback you have given our staff this week. Your support means a lot to our staff and it is sincerely appreciated.

During the week we have been listening to the varying concerns and problems that have been popping up, so to address these common themes we have provided a Q&A style format for you to refer to.

What is the difference in learning for Remote and On Site Learners?

There is no difference in curriculum content and activities delivered to students. As a result, the same work is produced and submitted to teachers for review and feedback. After reviewing the work, teachers will then plan the next weekly bundle of work to be issued to all students.

Some difference is inevitable but not impacting on the student access to the curriculum and learning:

- On Site Learners are allocated regular school time to complete the activities, Remote Learners have flexibility when the tasks are complete (as long as the week's work is submitted by Monday afternoon).
- The delivery of some instruction is teacher based for On Site Learners and parent based for Remote Learners.

What are the opportunities for my child at home to have video access to my class teacher?

We have two opportunities for "live" options for Remote Learning students.

- **Social Connection:** This is to support some social connection for the students among their class. This is the scheduled live Zoom meetings that will occur in the morning session for each class – commencing next week. These will only take 5 – 10 mins, with the class teacher following a similar script each day.
- **Content Delivery:** This is where class teachers will provide opportunities for Remote Learners to hear instructions from teachers. The On Site students will also be in attendance during these feeds. There have been some technology glitches this week, so we are aiming to grow these deliveries pending on technology reliability. We will also save these videos so they can be accessed at any time by families.

As an additional measure, class teachers have also been pre-recording video messages for On Site and Remote Learners. These have been pushed out to assist students with their learning as well, and can be accessed as many times as needed. This practice will also become more evident across year levels from next week.

Do I need hard copies as well?

No. All content and activities will be pushed out in an electronic form. By using the two technology platforms (One Note and SeeSaw) you will also be able to submit work electronically. In cases where the technology has failed we have resorted to emailing – this has been a last resort measure. In cases of adverse situations please contact your class teacher.

Can my children attend school?

In order for all of us to play our part to support the COVID-19 response we ask parents to use these guidelines while making decisions about school attendance:

Remote learning is for all students who:

- Have a parent at home or, are able to be supervised and learn from home.
- Have a medical condition that places them at a greater than average risk for infection.

On Site learning is supervision for:

- Children of essential workers -
 - On days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made.
 - Essential worker means any worker who must continue to attend their workplace for essential business during this time.
- Vulnerable children who include children who are currently receiving services from Child Safety, including children who are subject to a child protection order or are subject to a youth justice order.

Is the yellow envelope with resources only for home use?

No this package is to always follow the student, if they are working from home or school.

Why doesn't Day 1 on the student timetable match Monday?

We want the learning to be as flexible as possible and we want to enable our teachers to take a day to review and provide feedback, then plan the new work for delivery to families.

- By making Day 1 Wednesday, all remote learners get Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun and Mon to complete the work.
- This means families have much more flexibility of time to complete the activities and access any pre-recorded videos
- Class work is then due in on Day 4 (Monday afternoon)
- Tuesday is our specialist day so students can spend Tuesday (Day 5) engaging in the specialist program.
- This process enables our teachers to use Tuesday to complete the weekly review, plan and deliver components of our program.

How do I motivate a reluctant home learner?

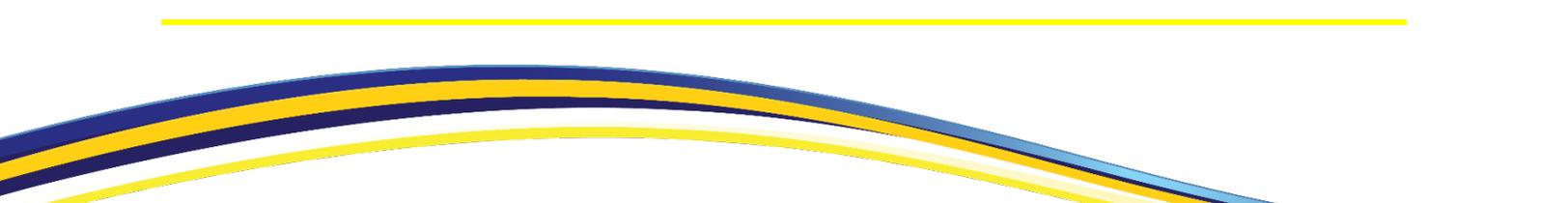
This question is also relevant to a learner who finds it hard to maintain concentration for longer periods of time.

Some ideas to manage these situations:

- Chunk all the learning down to smaller bits. There is nothing wrong with completing tasks in 30, 20 or 15 minute blocks.
- Provide incentives or rewards when completing these smaller tasks. Give free time, go for a walk together, allow time for physical activities, whatever works best for your child.
- Tackle more difficult tasks when your child is fresh (eg mornings). Save easy or tasks they like for the afternoon or as rewards.
- Give feedback to the teacher if the work is too complex and they will provide adjustments for you.

If you have any further questions during this process, please inform your class teacher and they will respond to you. If the answer is more complex they will forward it onto Chris Bartlett for more advice.

Thank you again for your amazing support of our staff during these new times for education.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S DESK



Tomorrow we commemorate ANZAC Day. On this day we honour the service and sacrifice of our service men and women. During tough times, Australians rely on the distinctive qualities of mateship, courage, endurance, humour and ingenuity. Known as the ANZAC Spirit, these five qualities have defined Australians since the first troops landed on the beaches of Gallipoli one hundred and five years ago. This year, we demonstrate these qualities by finding ways to commemorate ANZAC Day a little differently. Our staff have shared their thoughts about ANZAC Day in this short [video](#).



This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Easter. Please find a [family prayer resource](#) for the weekend, and our [St Theresa's Parish Bulletin](#).

We are also mindful that Mothers' Day is approaching. Usually we host a Mothers' Day breakfast and liturgy, however this year we will find a different way to acknowledge our mums and special people who act as mothers to us. So, mums and mother figures, you are invited to send a photo of you and your children to angela.martlew@twb.catholic.edu.au Please send it in by Monday 4 May.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

LIVE CHATS

Next week we will begin live Zoom meetings for students and parents. Our first purpose for live meetings is to enable a check in point for remote students. Please refer to your class teacher's correspondence for times. Prep to Yr 3 teachers and our Administration team will invite via an email link to parents. Yr 4 – 6 teachers will invite via an email link to students.

Currently teachers have been pre-recording messages for students. We will also grow opportunity for some live teacher directions / messages to be shared with our Remote Learners.

Please refer to our [Learning a New Way at Mater Dei](#) booklet for on-line protocols.

SCHOOL PHOTOS DATE CHANGE

Please note we have rescheduled our school photos day to late August. We are hopeful social distancing guidelines will allow us to be in close enough proximity to allow authentic class group photos.

PREP ENROLMENT INTERVIEWS 2021

We will be holding interviews for 2021 Prep enrolments a little later this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. We will prioritise new families to the school over the next few weeks and then conduct current families later in the term. Please note we have factored in current families to count in the overall total of students accepted.

SCHOOL DESKS – GIVE AWAY

We have a significant number of older style student desks that are no longer in use by the school. If you would like one of these for your child, you can pick it up from the old 'White House' next **Tuesday 28 April between 11:00am-12:30pm**. Please enter via the driveway to the staff carpark in Curzon St. Staff will be in attendance to help with the collection of desks. We ask that you are mindful of social distancing and move through the area as quickly as possible to allow efficient distribution.

LIBRARY NEWS

How can the library help you to keep your children reading?

Our current situation presents a great opportunity for some extra reading time as well as some challenges around accessing reading resources. It is so important to keep our children reading and Mater Dei is committed to supporting students to do exactly that.

We have utilised a few digital resources to provide students with access to reading materials and one of these is a 4-week trial of a school collection through Wheelers ePlatform. If this is of interest to you, please read the linked doc for how to utilise this opportunity - [BORROWING DIGITAL BOOKS](#)

We will also be providing a library style 'Click & Collect' system to enable students learning from home to still access the library print collection. Click here for more details - [HOME ACCESS TO THE PRINT LIBRARY COLLECTION](#)

Regards,
Merry

SPORT WITH DANIELLE KING

Welcome back to Term Two, it is definitely a strange time for sport with all local up to national sports being cancelled due to COVID-19. I hope that everyone is keeping safe and well during this time and taking time out of their day to keep active in one form or another. There are a number of resources available online just by searching fitness at home that can be done without any equipment and can keep everyone in your family active during this time.

Athletics Trophies

Can all athletics trophies please be returned by the end of week three as these need to be sent to be engraved with the recipients names. These can be dropped off to the school office starting Monday week 2.



FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

Dear Parents and Families

This week has posed many new and unprecedented challenges. I want to commend you all for accepting these challenges with such openness, humour and positivity. As the weeks progress and we uncover new challenges, remember that help is available to you and your family if you start to feel weary (*and we all do from time to time- it's what makes us human!*).

Here are some of the wellbeing resources available to you and your family at this time:

- School Counsellor Connect – a resource bank of wellbeing activities and tips for parents (<https://sway.office.com/wRc1e0juWKtR2qLs?ref=Link>)
- The Mater Dei Wellbeing Calendar – a daily calendar of simple wellbeing activities you can do at home during the month of May (available on the following links).
 - [Mater Dei Wellbeing Calendar – Prep to Year 3](#)
 - [Mater Dei Wellbeing Calendar – Year 4 to Year 6](#)
- Remote school counselling consultation and support –if you'd like to discuss concerns regarding your child's social-emotional wellbeing, please contact me via email anne.woodcroft-brown@twb.catholic.edu.au
- Alternatively, there are a variety of other community agencies at are still available to you:

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

LIFELINE 13 11 14	BEYOND BLUE 1300 22 4635
KIDS HELPLINE 1800 55 1800	PARENT LINE 1300 30 1300
NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE 1800 020 080	HEADSPACE 1800 650 890

HELP IS AVAILABLE IF AT ANY POINT YOU FEEL OVERWHELMED OR JUST NEED TO CHAT

TUCKSHOP

Term 2 Tuckshop kicked off on Thursday. It has been a lot quieter this term as many students are learning from home. As many students are at home missing out on Tuckshop we thought we could bring tuckshop to you.

'A Slice of Mater Dei at Home' will be available to order through flexischools. We will be doing trays of chocolate slice to take home. Only \$5.00 for a tray of 6 pieces of slice.

It will be available for pick up on Tuesday the 28th of April from Mater Dei.

Please order your slice through flexischools.

For those attending school the tuckshop will run every Tuesday and Thursday as per normal. If you are able to volunteer, we will only need one volunteer each tuckshop day. Below is the sign-up genius. Please click on the link to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E45A9A629A1FC1-mdps9>

Kindest Regards

Anne Day



NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA ON SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY (NCCD)



Dear parents, guardians and carers

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.

Kind regards

Principal

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Australian Government
Department of Education

BUS QUEENSLAND

Please find below 2 communications that Bus Qld have asked that we pass on to our parent body:

Dear Parents and Caregivers

On 13 April 2020, the Queensland Premier announced that schools would only be open for the children of Essential Workers until 22 May. As a result, Toowoomba Transit expects that the number of children, travelling by bus, to and from school will be significantly reduced. We, therefore, need to consider the most efficient way possible to continue providing services.

If you could please complete the survey outlining your intentions for school bus services during weeks 3 to 5, to and from school, it will be appreciated. This will allow us to ensure our services are tailored to provide services for vulnerable children and essential workers.

After completing the survey, Toowoomba Transit will communicate via email of any changes to services. Please make sure you review your emails regularly.

Amendments to services will also be communicated to the schools impacted in addition to information being placed on TransLink's website.

To nominate your intention to send your child by bus to school, please follow the link to our survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFKNMJ6>. The survey will close at midnight on Tuesday 28 April. There will be no changes until at least week three of term and all changes will be communicated prior to taking effect.

A link to this survey can also be found at busqld.com.au

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us on (07) 4633 1177.

Rosemary Meyer

Dear Parents and Guardians

We are writing to you to update you on the impacts of COVID-19 on school bus services for Term 2. We want to assure that services will operate as normal from Monday 20 April 2020.

To protect our drivers and passengers, drivers will not be accepting cash for payment of fares. Passengers will still need to pay a fare by having a Travel Card which can be purchased from the Toowoomba Depot at 308 Taylor Street Toowoomba, Monday to Friday between 8.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Given the difficult circumstances we are waiving the usual \$15 fee.

We also suggest that you top up your card to the value of 5 weeks' travel. To do this, you will need to bring the card to the depot. Please note we do not have eftpos facilities.

We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause, but the safety of our drivers and customers is paramount. We understand that it may take parents some time to attend the depot to purchase or top up their card. As always, children will be carried to and from school even in the absence of a valid fare.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the depot on (07) 4633 1177.

Regards,

Bus Queensland (Toowoomba)

Rosemary Meyer

