



**MATER DEI
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Mater Dei Matters

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK – Chris Bartlett



The end of this week brings us to the end of the COVID-19 student attendance restrictions. As of Monday 25 May we will welcome back the Yr 2 to 6 students to classes after undertaking remote learning for the first five weeks of this term. This time has certainly been a unique experience for all of our community and schools across the state and nation. I am sure many of us will welcome the return to some normality with all students attending school again.

Although this first five weeks has had some challenges, we must acknowledge some of the new learnings we have embraced to navigate the circumstances put before us. It is also important to note we also found ways to engage and involve our broader community that will serve us well into a post COVID-19 situation.

I would like to sincerely thank all of our staff, parents and students for displaying a positive mindset during the online period. There have been many varied experiences during this time as each family engaged in the learning program as best as possible. We also are reminded that while students return to school, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 still present difficulties for many with employment situations and compromised health. We keep these people in mind as we continue to support each across the community.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S DESK – Angela Martlew



In today's school assembly, our students did a great job of identifying ways their teachers and family members have demonstrated our Dispositions – great learning during this time by everyone! We also thank Mrs Pritchard and Year 1 Flame for leading us in prayer. Please view our assembly on our youtube channel via this [link](#).

This weekend is Ascension Sunday. This marks the end of the Easter season and celebrates Jesus' ascension into Heaven. Please find St Theresa's Parish [bulletin](#) for the weekend on our website.

Next week is National Reconciliation Week. This year marks 20 years since the first Walk for Reconciliation, when over 300 000 people showed their support for Reconciliation by walking across the Sydney Harbour Bridge. This was the largest display of public support for a single cause in Australian history.

Next Friday May 29 we will be participating in one of the events associated with the week – the National Acknowledgement of Country. As we are unable to physically gather as a whole school community, we are going to try something a bit different! We are holding a whole school Acknowledgement via Zoom to our classrooms and then create our own Sea of Hands for Reconciliation under the jacaranda tree in Polding Place. You are all invited to join us in the Zoom session, we'll send the link out next week.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Return to School Reminders: Prep – Yr 6

The following points are reminders around the school practices:

- Students are to attend school for their normal face to face delivery of the curriculum.
- Class teachers will plan for face to face delivery and are not responsible for learning at home.
- If a child is sick, they will be marked – Medical absence (as per normal).
- If a parent chooses to leave a child at home due to COVID-19 reasons, they are to contact the school and the child will be marked – Approved educational absence
- Any educational support for students who will have prolonged absences from school must be discussed with the class teacher.
- All daily class Zoom meetings have concluded. We are seeking ways to use Zoom and our You Tube channel to engage families who can't attend some of our whole school events.

Social Distancing:

Social and physical distancing protocols continue to apply to adults in a school setting. We can all help the potential spread of COVID-19 by adhering to these protocols:

- Minimising the need to enter the school
 - Stop, Drop and Go - where appropriate
 - Wait in the car until the going home bell rings before entering the school grounds to collect your child
 - Use the drop off / pick up zone if your child is independent.
 - Not gathering in groups inside or outside schools grounds
- Using phone or emails messages to engage with staff
- Keep a distance of 1.5 meters between all people whilst in and around the school grounds.

The school is also required to continue restricting non-essential gatherings in the school grounds and buildings until further notice (eg. assemblies, sporting events and performances).

Parents can also assist by ensuring their child stays away from school if they are showing any sign of Corona Virus.

Device Checks

Over the past five weeks, we are conscious that many students have had greater access and use of devices in the home setting. As a result, it is timely to remind parents to check over devices to ensure new apps haven't been downloaded to devices without your approval.

It is always good practice to ensure you know your child's browser history to the internet as well. Please take some time over the weekend to undertake some checks and remember to make such checks a regular occurrence.





Student Travel Rebates



Semester 1



Bus Fare Assistance

- Does your child attend a **school outside the Brisbane City Council** boundary?
- Does your family spend more than **\$25/week*** on fares to and from school (* \$20/week if you hold a concession card)?
- Does your child travel on a **publicly available service** not owned or associated with the school?

Students With Disability

- Does your child have a **verified disability** that requires **transport assistance** to and from school?
- Has your school's learning support teacher assessed your child's **travel capability rating** as 'semi-independent' or more dependent?

Visit our website to see if you qualify for our financial assistance to help with the cost of transport and **apply at SchoolTransport.com.au during May.**

Late applications cannot be accepted after 31st May.

FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

Returning to School – Ways to Support Your Child

With school resuming next week, many kids will be busting to see their friends and get out of the house. But for some, the thought of returning to the classroom may be stirring anxiety. Even if your child is eager to get back to school, they may need help with the transition.

Some children may not openly share their back-to-school worries. Rather there are some more subtle signs to look out for. They might share the ‘what-ifs’ – such as, ‘what if I go back to school and I get sick? What if I go to school and I have nobody to play with’. Other signs of worry could be trouble sleeping, restlessness, bursts of anger over seemingly benign things, withdrawing, or complaints about headaches and tummy aches.

We can help our children by encouraging them to express how they feel about going back to school and validating their concerns. Try using a conversation opener such as: "It's a big thing going back to school and it's OK if you feel a bit worried. That's really understandable and normal." After validation comes strength: where we tell our kids it might be a bit hard at first but it's going to be OK, and we know they're going to get through this. Saying well-meaning things like “there’s nothing to worry about” can often increase a child’s anxiety because we give them the impression that we ‘just don’t get it’.

We, as caregivers, can help our children by managing our *own* emotions. Typically, if a parent feels anxious about returning to school or school drop-off, children pick up on this and may see the situation as anxiety-provoking. But if a parent is really relaxed, the child will most likely model this. Keeping calm and relaxed can make a world of difference for a little person, especially leading up to a big transition.

Last (but certainly not least), remember, our children are often more capable than we think. We underestimate how resilient kids are and how easily they can adapt. Once kids are back with their friends and back with the teacher, they'll settle back in! With this in mind, I encourage you all to enjoy the weekend and celebrate the fact that we successfully made it through this remote learning period!

If you are looking for more hints and tips about managing big emotions or school anxiety, more resources are available on the [School Counsellor Connect](#) page.



TUCKSHOP



'Macaroni Cheese'

With the weather getting cooler all the time we thought we could do a hot special of 'Macaroni Cheese' (\$3.00) for the kids. As of next week, you will be able to order it for lunch through flexischools. This special will only occur for the rest of this term available on both Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will change it up in Winter with a different special!

'Birthday Cupcakes'

Do you love spoiling your children on their birthday but the thought of baking 30 cupcakes for their class feels like more of a chore? \$30 for 30 cupcakes 😊.

We've got it covered! We can do the cupcakes for you here at the tuckshop! There will be two options available vanilla or chocolate cupcakes with vanilla icing topped with sprinkles! Take a load off and let us help you with your child's special day! You can order them through flexischools the week before their birthday.

With all the kids back at school next week **we need your help**. It is a great time to come in and reconnect with the Mater Dei community by volunteering in the tuckshop. Please sign up by clicking the link below. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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

