



Term 1 Week 8
Wednesday 18th March 2020
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DIARY DATES

TERM 1 2020

Thursday
19th March **Coding / Robotics After School Program**
3:15–4:45pm
POSTPONED

Mon-Wed
23-25 March **Year 6 Excursion to Canberra**
POSTPONED

Thursday
26th March **Coding / Robotics After School Program**
3:15–4:45pm
POSTPONED

Monday
30th March **3 Way Interviews (3WI's) - POSTPONED**

Tuesday
31st March **3 Way Interviews (3WI's) - POSTPONED**

Wednesday
1st April **3 Way Interviews (3WI's) - POSTPONED**

Thursday
2nd April **Coding / Robotics After School Program**
3:15–4:45pm
POSTPONED

Friday
3rd April **Stage 3 Touch Football Gala Day—POSTPONED**

Thursday
9th April **Coding / Robotics After School Program**
3:15–4:45pm
POSTPONED

Thursday
9th April **Term 1 Concludes**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Dear Parents,

The recent events with the spread of the COVID-19 have, in some way, impacted us all. It can be really hard to know what to say to your child to respond to their questions when there is uncertainty. Here are some tips:

Give children reassurance and extra emotional support. Reassure children of the steps being taken to keep them safe. Explain that people from all over the world offer help in times of need. If they are old enough you can mention that the government and hospitals are also doing everything possible.

Be honest with children. Children are better able to deal with a situation when they understand it. They need information just like adults do. Begin by asking your children what they already know about the situation. Most likely, they have already heard about it on TV, at school or from friends. A lot of their information, however, may be inaccurate. As they explain what they know, look for misunderstandings or frightening rumours. Tell the truth and do not try to mislead them "for their own good."

Monitor children's media exposure. Keep young children away from frightening images they may see on TV, social media, computers, etc.

Be mindful of what children hear you saying in regard to the pandemic. Keep your language positive and hopeful.

Pray. As a Catholic community we recognise the importance of prayer in times of need.

Please find two links that may be helpful to you as a parent. Advice for Parents about how to speak with your children about the COVID-19. Watch video [here](#).
[Helping Kids Who Are Worried About Coronavirus](#)

Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL



HARMONY DAY

Harmony Week is an Australian government initiative which celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and sense of belonging for everyone. We will be celebrating Harmony Week on Thursday 19th March in our Learning Spaces.



All children are invited to wear their sports uniform with a splash of orange.

Children are also asked to bring an artefact or a photo of something from another culture to share with their peers during the learning times on Thursday 19th March. Happy Harmony Day!

NOTICE FROM COMMBANK SCHOOL BANKING

The health, safety and wellbeing of our communities and our people is our first priority. Due to the rapidly developing situation with coronavirus, School Banking has been temporarily paused from **20 March 2020** until the start of **Term 2**. Please don't bring your deposit book with your weekly banking into school. We will notify you when banking will recommence.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

| | |
|----------|---|
| March 18 | Harrison W |
| March 22 | Brandon E Monique G Thomas H |
| March 23 | Manuel S Flynn S Sebastien P Sienna A Caleb F |
| March 24 | Dominic J |
| March 25 | Nishaan V Thomas L |
| March 26 | Cooper K |
| March 27 | Alice L |
| March 28 | Amber A |
| March 30 | Kiara Z Mia I |

We would like to wish all of these children a very happy birthday!!

KINDERGARTEN 2021 INTERVIEWS

All interviews for Kindergarten 2021 have been **postponed** until further notice. We will contact parents once we have any further information.

**PRINCIPAL AWARDS
TERM 1—Week 7**

| | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| KB | Salvatore C & Gabrielle W |
| KGT | Emma C & Nicholas S |
| 1A | Christian G & Angelina B |
| 1D | George C & Arianna A |
| 2FM | Amelia N & Anahita W |
| 2RM | Jayden terW & Alexander J |
| 3G | Akito D & Grace B |
| 3J | Alysha M & Joseph S |
| 4D | Benjamin L & Olivia R |
| 4R | Isabella R & Faith L |
| 5E | Misha K & Eddie A |
| 5K | Luca B & Carey K |
| 6K | Keira D & Stella N |
| 6LV | Tadhg O & Ruby N |

**CARE AWARDS
TERM 1—Week 7**

| | |
|-----|-------------------------|
| KB | Jordan H & Zara F |
| KGT | Hayden A & Selena K |
| 1A | Alyssa D & Dominic H |
| 1D | Olivia N & Daniel M |
| 2FM | Sienna A & William Z |
| 2RM | Matilda S & Levi L |
| 3G | Audrey T & Xianjin B |
| 3J | Jasmin S & Amelia M |
| 4D | Gus G & Japreet K |
| 4R | Joshua A & Giulia N |
| 5E | Anthony A & Mya C |
| 5K | Kiara Z & Cecilia H |
| 6K | Johnathan K & Dominic J |
| 6LV | Isla B & Lachlan C |

FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHAD

Well done to Chad from Year 6 who was recently selected in the Parramatta AFL team to play in Wagga. While the Wagga games are on hold we are hopeful of Chad being able to represent Parramatta later in the year.

COVID-19

A number of updates have been sent home – please ensure you have the latest Skoolbag app (free from the Apple or Android Store). In addition, please do not rely on 'stories', rather check the latest advice from the school, NSW Health or Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta.

LUNCH CLUB

An update from Jeanette Mansour, our School Counsellor - who will continue facilitating **Lunch Club** in the Library each Thursday. Students are welcome to attend as needed. The focus of Lunch Club is an alternative to the playground, for students who prefer a contained environment. Board games, Lego, Jigsaws and Twister are provided. The School Counsellor supervises and facilitates student interactions. If parents wish to discuss this with the Counsellor, please contact the school on a Thursday, when she is here.

RYDE ROTARY

Congratulations to Rachel (5K) and Charlotte (5K) for representing St Mary's in the Ryde District Rotary Primary School Public Speaking Competition. Rachel spoke on "Laughter is the Best Medicine" and Charlotte spoke on "Summer is the best and worst of times. Why?" Both girls were wonderful representatives for St Mary's.



NATIONAL DAY AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE...

This Friday 20th March marks the 10th anniversary of the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA). Australia's key bullying prevention event for schools is celebrating 10 years of action, connecting communities to find workable solutions to bullying and violence. The NDA encourages all students to stand together against bullying and violence, providing an opportunity for schools across Australia to showcase bullying prevention and response initiatives. On Friday all students at St Mary's from K-6 will receive a wristband to wear on the day to show their solidarity against bullying and violence. Together we can take action to create a safe and caring learning environment.



Road safety around your child's school

Your child's safety depends on you

Drop off and pick up by car

Make sure your children are in an appropriate child car seat that is fitted and used correctly.

Stick to the **40km/h speed limit** in a school zone as children are about.

Look for buses pulling out – watch for flashing wig wag lights.

Always park and turn legally around schools. **Avoid dangerous manoeuvres** such as U-turns and three-point turns.

Always **give way to pedestrians** particularly when entering and leaving driveways.

Drop your children off and pick them up on the **school side of the road** in your school's designated drop off and pick up area. Calling out to them from across the road is dangerous – they may run to you without checking for traffic.

It's safest for children to get out of the car on the **kerb side of the road** to be away from passing traffic.

Walking together to and from school

Plan your trip to school so you use pedestrian crossings where possible.

Always **hold your child's hand**. Children need your help to spot dangers such as vehicles coming out of driveways. They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.

Drop off and pick up your child near the school gate and avoid calling them from across the road.

Talk with your children about **Stop, Look, Listen and Think** every time they cross the road.

STOP! one step back from the kerb.

LOOK! for traffic to your right left and right again.

LISTEN! for the sounds of approaching traffic.

THINK! whether it is safe to cross.

Young children can learn these **safe pedestrian habits** from you and continue them later on when they are old enough to travel alone.