



The Adventure of HBL begins!

Dear St Mary's Catholic School Community,

We've begun our journey with home-based learning. In the two weeks leading up to the holidays it is only English, Maths and Religion that is our focus. As we enter Term 2, you will begin to notice some changes. Tasks in all KLAs will become included. The use of videos will become more obvious. Suggested timetables will be forwarded. Our home-based learning will certainly evolve with time. We appreciate your patience as we learn a new way of working.

A reminder that you can contact your child's teacher (email or phone) between 8.30am and 3.30pm, Monday—Friday.

If you have any photos of what home-based learning looks like at your place, please forward them to Jacqui so that she can include them in our weekly newsletter.

Holy Week

Sadly, we do not have the opportunity to join together during Holy Week. As I write, Father Tomy is attempting to set up a live-streaming service of particular Holy Week liturgies that he will post on the parish website.

Great Efforts

With only approximately 35 children at school each day, I thank the many parents who have made sacrifices and considerable adjustments to their normal practices. The sooner we're on the other side of this 'virus hump', the better.

Enrolments for Kinder 2021 Open

Applications for enrolment in Kinder 2021 at our school are now open. Please contact our school's administration to access a Kinder enrolment pack.

Mum or Dad, the Teacher

While we are blessed to have a number of parents in our school who are teachers, the vast majority of you are not. Please call us, if at any time, you'd like advice on how to explain a particular concept or problem. There's nothing like routine for children. They respond to it. No routine needs to look the same. It's whatever works for your family.

To Whom It May Concern

Sometimes I witness examples of the child 'ruling the roost' in a family. Just about whatever the child wants, happens. Whenever the parent tries to pull the child back into line, it is not easy. And as the child grows older, it becomes much harder. During these extraordinary times of the children being at home all the time, I am concerned for some families. I encourage these families to be strong, predictable and consistent in your interactions with your children. You can be a great role-model for your children at this time.

Your Wellbeing

I also worry about domestic violence, abuse and strained relationships during these times. All of our patience will be tested. If you need help, please seek help. You are welcome to contact us

Kind Regards,

K Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal

From Our Religious Education Coordinator

Holy Week

This Sunday 5th April we celebrate Palm Sunday and then Holy Week. During this week at school the children would usually have participated in Holy Week Liturgies, Stations of the Cross and other activities associated with this important event in our Catholic tradition. Also coming home today, following today's newsletter is an attachment with ideas for celebrating Holy Week at home with your family.

Sacramental Program

Unfortunately our Reconciliation Program has been postponed. We will keep you informed when we hear more information.

Liz Hartge
Religious Education Coordinator

From Our Librarian

Our library is more than a place to borrow and read books or work on the computers and i-Pads. Many children come to the library during lunch time to enjoy technology free games. Popular with the kids are Chess, Draughts, Snakes and Ladders, Uno, Trouble, Connect Four, Memory, and Don't Spill the Beans. It may take us a number of days but children pop in and out to complete jigsaw puzzles. Some children like to come and draw or colour in. Other children love building with Lego and setting up the dinosaur plastic animals and zoo animals. Cars and the car mats are always popular too. This term I introduced Jacks which is a good game to develop manual dexterity and hand eye coordination. A few children have been determined to master the technique. These are just a few 'hands on' games and activities for you to try at home.



From Our Literacy and Numeracy Coordinators

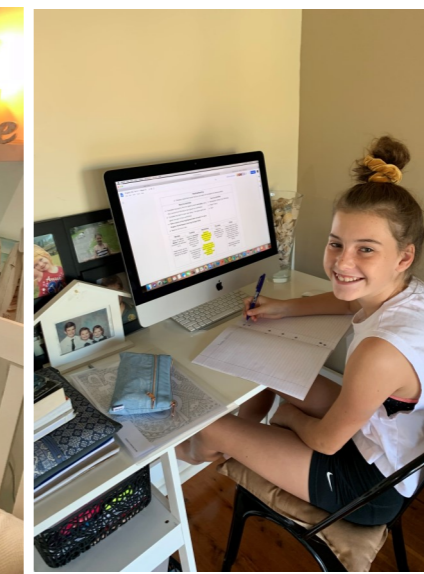
Dice are wonderful resources for number sense. If you follow the link below, there is a great 3 minute clip with a game involving just dice. The first few minutes of the clip explains the Mathematical Thinking and then you can see a minute of the activity being played. Try it at home. Enjoy!
<https://www.youcubed.org/resources/dice-games-k-12/>

Tips for reading at home!

- read and reread your favourite picture books together as a family
- enjoy a range of picture books online at <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- listen to a story on <https://www.getepic.com/>
- older children – check out <https://www.kidsnews.com.au/>
- click on the library link in your Google classroom to access Miss Gray's book collection for the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Photos From Our HBL Classrooms!

Email us photos of the Home-Based Learning happening at your place!
Send to smt@dbb.catholic.edu.au with 'Newsletter HBL' in the subject line.



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