

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Toukley

Address: 458 Main Road, Noraville NSW 2263
Telephone: (02) 4396 5100
Fax: (02) 4396 5101
Email: smt@dbb.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.smtddb.catholic.edu.au



22nd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that you've been able to enjoy the sensational blue skies and beautiful ocean these past couple of weeks. If we've had to be isolated, we are blessed that it is in a wonderful part of the world.

No doubt you've been following the media and the plan from our Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, regarding a transition back to school during Term 2. What does it mean for our school?

Firstly, it is important to note: as Principal, I take very seriously my responsibility to minimise the risk of harm for any child, teacher, staff member or parent. At the end of Term 1, with less than 5% of students present at school, you did a fantastic job of helping me minimise such a risk. As we roll out strategies to transition students back to school during the course of Term 2, and to help safeguard all members of our school community, I kindly ask you to continue to adhere to the various requests I make of you.

- Monday 27th April is a Staff Development Day (the same way we finished the last 3 days of Term 1).
- The rest of Weeks 1 and 2 of the new term will be exactly as the last two weeks of Term 1. Home-based Learning for all students.
- From Week 3 (Monday 11th May) a scheduled transition of all students back to school 1 day-per-week will apply. Approximately 20% of students will attend on Mondays, similarly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
- You will receive a letter through Compass on Monday 27th April that will detail which students will attend on what days from Week 3. Naturally, siblings in a family will attend on the same day. Do parents get to choose which day? Sorry, no. We will be attempting to keep social distancing in play and until the restrictions are loosened, we need to dictate how many students per day.
- The letter will also include details of staggered drop-off times, staggered pick-up times and the finer points of what drop-off and pick-up will involve.
- You have done a wonderful job with our home-based learning. We certainly appreciate and value your efforts as you juggle many competing priorities. For any HBL, the suggested total time per day devoted to it is 1.5 to 2 hours. A quality and focused 1.5 to 2 hours is far richer than a wishy-washy, surface level longer period of time. Priority needs to be given to the 'must-knows' (English, RE, Maths).

Vision/Mission Statement

"Empowered by the Spirit, we at St Mary's live, learn and grow as disciples of Jesus in a nurturing Catholic Community."

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Toukley

Address: 458 Main Road, Noraville NSW 2263
Telephone: (02) 4396 5100
Fax: (02) 4396 5101
Email: smt@dbb.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.smtddb.catholic.edu.au



- The letter will also give an early indication of when the students' transition will increase to 2 days per week. The current plan is that by the end of Term 2, all students will be attending school at least 3-4 days per week. Our school will be guided by advice that we receive from both the State Government and Catholic Schools NSW. As you will be aware, such advice is open to change at short notice.

As you'd appreciate, Term 2 will be complex and challenging for families and teachers. The tremendous flexible and adaptable attitude displayed by families and staff to date has been exceptional. Thank you for that. Let's keep up our sense of humour, be hope-filled, look for the positive and what we, produce together, will be the best we can. It will also be enough for this moment in time.

On behalf of our teachers, please say "Hi" to your kids. We'll enjoy seeing them again in Week 3 and very much look forward to having them back at school on a more consistent basis.

Kind regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal

Vision/Mission Statement

"Empowered by the Spirit, we at St Mary's live, learn and grow as disciples of Jesus in a nurturing Catholic Community."