

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Toukley

Address: 458 Main Road, Noraville NSW 2263
Telephone: (02) 4396 5100
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Email: smt@dbb.catholic.edu.au
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21st May 2020

The Day We've Been Looking Forward To

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday 25th May we welcome all children back to our school fulltime, 5 days per week. For schools, the uncertainty of the past couple of months fades.

Teachers have repeatedly been commenting about their appreciation of your practical support, encouragement and gratitude during this difficult period. It has been obvious to the staff. We don't take it for granted. And we sincerely thank you. Good kids, good parents.

Home-based Learning: Home-based Learning concludes tomorrow. Teachers have done an excellent job providing continuity of learning for their classes and parents have done a tremendous job supporting their child attend to the learning.

Reports: The change to learning that has occurred has meant that the Semester 1 Reports will look different and timetabled a little later. Reports will appear on Compass on Thursday 2nd July (last day of Term 2). Parent – Teacher meetings will occur in Week 2 of Term 3 (27-31 July). We will be reporting on Religion, English and Maths only. Achievement *grades* and *effort* will be included.

Emailing Teachers: From Monday 25th May we kindly ask you to return to our previous policy of *not emailing teachers*. We much prefer to talk to you on the phone or we welcome you to a face-to-face meeting. The main reason being is that when two people are talking to each other the intent of the message given is less ambiguous. The chance for miscommunication is considerably reduced. And the sacredness of the relationship is maintained.

Meetings with Teachers: You may want to know how your child, on their return to school, is 'travelling'. Rest assured that if we have a concern, we will communicate it with you. You are welcome, at any time, to contact your child's teacher to discuss any relevant matters. At the present time, the preferred method would be via a phone call.

Drop-off and Pick-Up Routines: Please refer to the final page of this document for a detailed description of new procedures. Please note that pick-up times will be between **2.40 – 3.15pm**.

Canteen: We will let you know when we are permitted to reopen the Canteen. It shouldn't be too far away.

Play Equipment: The play equipment on the top playground and beside the oval is now open.

Hygiene: Regular handwashing and sanitizing of hands will take place throughout the day under the supervision of the classroom teacher. Besides our normal 5 hours of daily cleaning (after school), 2 hygienists spend a further 4 hours during the school day contact cleaning frequently touched surfaces throughout the school.

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."

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Attendance: We are and will be monitoring attendance closely. As NSW Education Minister, Sarah Mitchell commented, "Rolls will be marked as per normal and unexplained absences will be followed up. You should be at school as long as you are well." If you are concerned about your child returning to school, could you please call me to discuss your situation?

Excursions and Year 6 in Canberra: All excursions and our Year 6 trip to Canberra have been postponed. Hopefully, we will be allowed to conduct our excursions in Term 3 or 4. Canberra has been re-booked for the first 3 days of Term 4 (12-14 October).

Masses, Assemblies, Sacred Spaces: Currently we are not permitted to have whole-school Masses, Assemblies and Sacred Spaces. As soon as we are permitted to do so, we will enjoy inviting you back to celebrate our faith or share what we have been doing in class.

Athletics Carnival: We have re-booked our Athletics Carnival for Thursday 20th August. We are hoping that restrictions have been relaxed by then.

Parents and Carers: While it is not possible for you to enter school grounds at the beginning and end of day, there will be occasions when you can drop in, e.g. uniform shop, visit to school office, a scheduled meeting etc.

Busways: "Our policy is that no school student will be left behind and as such, school students will be given priority over other passengers on regular route services even if this means a service goes over physical distancing capacity. Adults may have to wait for the next service or choose to get off if they're not comfortable with how many customers are on a service. *All services will continue to operate to a normal timetable until advised otherwise.*" (An email from Busways sent to our school yesterday.)

Staff Development Day: The Catholic Schools Office has gazetted Friday 3rd July as a Staff Development Day for all Catholic Schools in our diocese. This will be a pupil free day. Thursday 2nd July will be the last day of Term 2 for students.

If you are unsure about any of the above information and would like something clarified, please call me.

Kind regards,

K Williams

Kevin Williams
Principal

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Drop-off and Pick-up Routines

Please see the accompanying diagram for our drop-off and pick-up routines.

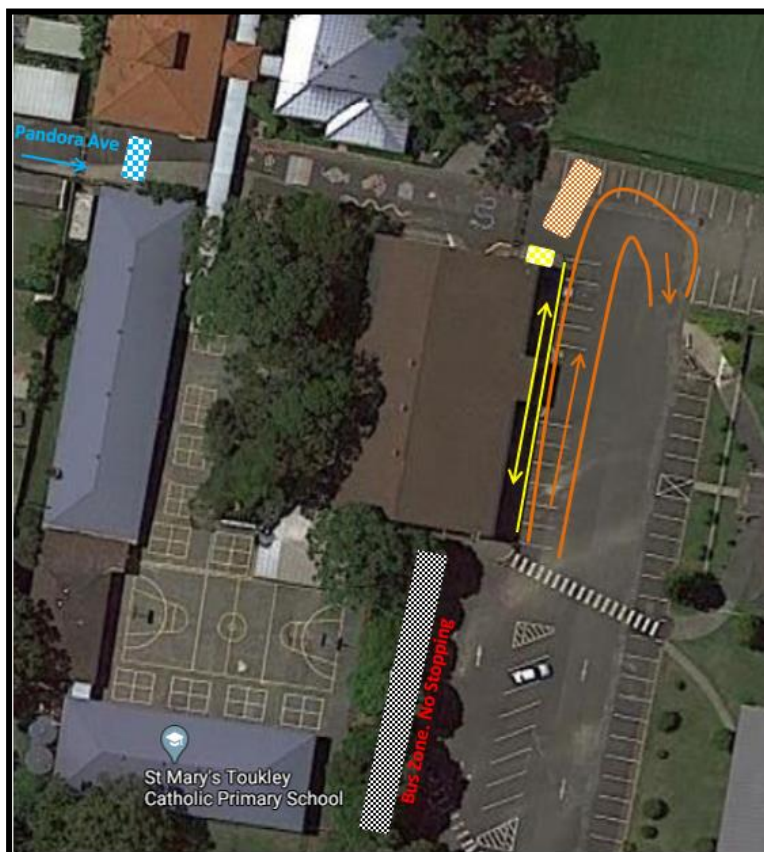
Morning Drop-off Routine: *At any time between 8.30am and 9.00am* parents are able to either **(1)** park your car and accompany your child to any gate, saying goodbye at the gate and leaving them to enter our school by themselves or **(2)** stop your car in the new red bollard marked-off area, near the 'gates by the oval' (orange area in the picture). Saying goodbye to your child, they alight on the safe side of the car (footpath/kerbed section) and head straight into school. *Please do not stop in the bus area.*

* Changed Afternoon Pick-up Routine:

At any time between 2.40pm and 3.15pm parents are able to: **(1)** park your car and walk to the "gates by the oval" (yellow area in the picture). Waiting outside the gates and standing in a socially distanced manner, your child will be called and asked to leave with you through the gates or **(2)** park your car in Pandora Parade and walk to the "back gates" (blue area in the picture). Your child will be called and then asked to leave with you via the "back gates" or **(3)** drive-up to the "gates by the oval" (orange area in the picture), anytime between 2.40 and 3.15pm. Your child will be called and then, after being safely secured in your car, you exit the driveway.

For any of the pick-up routines, we ask you to please, each day, display a sign with your child's surname. This will help the process to be smooth and quick.

N.B. The Weeks 3 and 4 walk-up routine for the top playground/bus area has finished.



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