

Newsletter

19th August, 2021 Term 3 Week 6

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Firstly, can I thank you so much for the efforts you are putting into remote learning. We fully understand how challenging learning from home is especially when parents are working. The good news is that most families seem to be getting into their own routine and sticking to a schedule that is doable. Please feel confident in making some choice as to when learning happens and how much you are able to manage in terms of supervision. The learning activities are meant to give the children some independence in being able to complete them - especially the older students. The last thing the school wishes to do is to add stress to families, so please reach out to us if you feel the work being posted is unmanageable or is becoming overwhelming for you. Like you, we look forward to all children returning to school; however, at the moment we ask parents to support us and our community by continuing to keep the children at home, unless absolutely necessary i.e. where there is no one to supervise children at home.

The staff learned from the last time we went into lockdown that the children are unable to spend copious hours in front of a screen or deep in concentration. It is easy for them to become fatigued especially if they are not moving and exercising. It is worth remembering that when children are at school they are given regular brain breaks through the transitions from subject to subject as well as time to discuss and collaborate with their peers. They also spend quality time playing with their friends, often being creative and imaginative.

In an article written by 'Families NSW' parents are reminded about the importance of play and how children having fun playing, forms their memories of childhood. The guide reminds parents that, "Children don't need expensive toys- you [parents] are their favourite toys". It is pleasing to hear some families finishing the learning around 2.00pm and then spending the afternoon exercising at a nearby park or going for a brisk walk with the children. Walking and talking is quality time that children remember. Admittedly it is not as enjoyable when one has to wear a mask but we are all getting used to this safety measure. Unfortunately for the moment recreation outside your residence is not allowed.

Some families report that they have been playing board games, doing crosswords, holding family zooms or evening colouring in together. Children can always learn to play by themselves. Reading or building something out of lego or recycled products around the home is very relaxing and this is what children need at the moment. I would recommend that playing at home, at this time, is time off devices especially if the children are doing their assigned activities - using a device.

It is important that we do not underestimate the value of play, which is critical in assisting children to learn about how to: communicate, negotiate and cooperate with others, to learn about their bodies and how it moves, gaining confidence and managing feelings. When they play they often get to try new things and to use their imagination. The article makes the point that for many children parents are their first playmates and this helps them to feel loved and secure.

*Some other ideas about **play during lockdown** can be found on the 'Newy with Kids' website found [here](#). There are many useful links.*

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

Please refer to Letter Sent Out via Skoolbag App on 17/8/2021

17th August, 2021

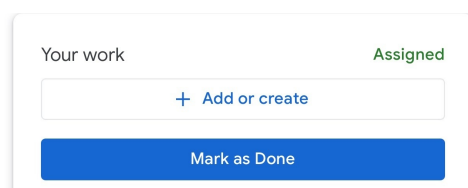
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

On behalf of the staff of St Patrick's Primary School we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for working with us during this time of remote learning. We value your support and would like to share with you some important changes we will be putting in place starting from next week.

- **Zoom meetings** will be **daily**. These will be organised for the **whole class or small groups**. The small group zoom meetings will be designed around the **needs** of the **students**. They may involve guided reading sessions or input sessions. **Verbal feedback** may be provided to students during these times so encourage your child to take notes about what the teacher is saying. The older students should try to compose a comment in their goggle document restating any feedback provided by the teachers, as this will help them improve their work.
- A **Science** or a **Human Society and Its Environment** activity (History/Geography) will be added and completed during the week. These activities will be set for either Tuesday, Wednesday **or** Thursday. They will be age appropriate and will cover the **NSW syllabus** outcomes. There may be times when students will need to view videos or access ebooks in order to complete the activities. We will endeavour to provide these resources as a paper copy, however, this may not always be possible. If you are unable to access the videos please complete what you can, when you can.
- The table below outlines when feedback will be completed so to ensure effective and timely feedback can be provided and applied by the students:

Activity Focus Area	Timeframe of Feedback
English/Maths	Substantial feedback - daily (Verbally within Zoom meetings/ written within Google Classroom)
Religious Education	Moderate feedback - provided twice a week, at point of need. Religious Education activities will still be posted daily.
Science/HSIE	Moderate feedback - provided at point of need
Take a Break with Mr Younis	Verbal feedback - provided within Zoom meeting if appropriate
Optional Activities	Opportunities to complete at leisure will cover other KLA's (Creative Arts, STEAM, Wellbeing) No feedback given
Online/ virtual Experiences	Opportunities to participate, great for brain breaks. No feedback given.
NB: if the proposed schedule causes families any stress or anxiety please contact your class teacher to discuss further.	

- Please ensure your child has added any attachments and marked their work as done. This can be completed by clicking the button seen below:



The teachers will provide feedback and will return the assignment to your child so it can be applied if necessary. Please contact the school if you need help with this step as it is important for students to select **"Mark as Done"**. This helps teachers see who may need extra support with their learning during this time.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Standring
(Assistant Principal)

For the telecast of Weekend mass follow this link:

[St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta - Facebook](#)

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation:

Further information and an update will be provided.

eSafetyparents



eSafetyCommissioner

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

Parental controls and shared accounts can be set up to do things like:

Block — you may be able to block your child from accessing specific websites, apps or functions (like using a device's camera or buying things online).

Filter — you may be able to restrict access to different kinds of content, such as 'adult' or inappropriate content. **Monitor** — you may be able to monitor your child's use of connected devices or apps, with reports on the content they access and the sites they visit, including how often and for how long.

FEEDBACK and COMPLAINTS

St Patrick's Parramatta staff always welcome feedback and ideas from the parent community. If you have any feedback, concerns or complaints please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, Mrs Standring (behaviour) or Miss Fabri through the school office (8832 4600), school email address stpatsricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au, or through Skoolbag App. The school follows the CEDP Complaints Handling Policy.

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/About-Us/Policy-Central>



"Openness to God makes us open towards the marginalized of this world, and gives us the courage to leave the confines of our own security and comfort to become bruised, hurting and dirty as we joyfully approach the suffering of others, in a spirit of solidarity."

Pope Francis



Is your child unwell ?

If you are learning from home and your child is too sick to participate in online learning please follow normal absence reporting procedures by sending in a skoolbag alert or email to stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au. This will allow the office staff to amend their attendance and notify their teachers they are unwell.

If your child has been attending school for supervision please follow the above guidelines for a child that is sick. A reminder that if your child is ill with any COVID 19 symptoms they are not to attend school, so as to keep our school community safe.

Thank you for your understanding.

Mrs Jones



SCHOOL WELL-BEING COUNSELLING SERVICE

The wellbeing of children and young people in Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta schools is of paramount importance. A sense of well-being and connectedness in schools promotes optimal development of the person and contributes to academic success.

Access to counselling services can be made by contacting your child's classroom teacher or Ms Fabri, who will then put forward a referral. Mrs Ricketts will then contact you for further information. Further details can be found in previous newsletters.

GUIDED READING LEVEL

A student's guided reading level tells the teacher what grade level books to use with a student in the guided reading lesson to optimize learning. Students are grouped according to what level they are on. Student's levels are assessed through standardized leveled book assessments, using levelled books from various publishing companies such as PMs.



BOOK WEEK 2021

This year's Children's Book Week theme is
"OLD WORLDS, NEW WORLDS, OTHER WORLDS"

**Look out for some exciting
OPTIONAL activities which will be
made available soon.**



Visit the PRC Student Site!

<http://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/StudentExperience.html#/>

Welcome to the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is open to all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

IMPORTANT LOCKDOWN UPDATE - RULE CHANGES EFFECTIVE 4 AUGUST 2021

The Premier's Reading Challenge requires the validation of student reading records before the conclusion of the Challenge and this may be difficult to complete at this time.

To allow students and coordinators to complete this task, the Premier's Reading Challenge will be extended for a further two weeks.

Challenge closes for students: Friday September 3, 2021

Students are now able to include up to 10 Choice Books on their reading records. (rather than 5) All students are able to include books on their reading records that they read collaboratively as a class, in person or online with their teacher or at home with their parents/carers. You can find more information about these adjustments on our Rules page.

Reading at home

Do you need access to books to read whilst learning at home? Many school and public libraries offer access to ebooks whilst access to their physical collection is limited. You can also check out our support article for more information about how you can find books to read at home. Students can visit our Sora online Collection via the following link: [SORA Link](#) There is a collection here for 5-6 PRC Books. However, none are listed for K-4. See PRC site for lists.

Bookclub Issue 6

Whilst we are stuck at home Scholastic has made available book club and home delivery. When ordering online you have the option of selecting home delivery and school delivery. **Please note if you select school delivery the orders will not be placed until we return to school full time.** If you select home delivery there will be a cost of \$7.50 and it will be delivery within 2 weeks. If you need any help with ordering please email the school on stpatricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au where you will be contacted by Mrs Jones who is working from home.

Please follow the link to order: <https://bookclubs.scholastic.com.au>

Book Club

**ISSUE 6
ONLINE
NOW!**

**HOME
DELIVERY IS
AVAILABLE**

Book Club

WELCOME TO Book Club

What to learn more?
See our Parents' Guide
scholastic.com.au/parents

Lola OUT LOUD

7 GOOD REASONS

ANNO DO HOT DOG

DRAGON GIRLS

WHAT YOU GET

SCHOLASTIC

NEW TESTING CLINIC



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District

COVID-19 Drive-through Testing Clinic at **Bankwest Stadium**

- 🕒 **Time:** 8am - 6pm daily (9am start on 11 August)
- 🕒 **When:** 7 days a week until further notice
- 📍 **Where:** Northern carpark, Enter at Gate 2
O'Connell Street, Parramatta, NSW, 2150

**Testing is FREE. All ages welcome.
No booking or GP referral required.**

**Check when you're eligible for COVID-19 vaccination using the
Australian Government Vaccine Eligibility Checker**



Our **VISION** is to be a child centred faith community
within an innovative, interactive learning
environment.

Our **MISSION** is to –

Live out the Gospel Values in a visibly Catholic
tradition

Nurture students for Christian Leadership

Create a range of learning experiences which allow
children to progress at their own level

Assist our students to develop into independent
thinkers with a deep sense of responsibility and justice

Lead each individual towards reaching his/her potential

Generate a sense of community and compassion in which all

Experience belonging.

Opportunity for all

MASS TIMETABLE FOR ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PARRAMATTA

Weekend Masses

Saturday 8.00am, 6.00pm (Vigil)

Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am (Family), 11.00am (Solemn), 6.00pm,
7.15pm (Arabic)

Weekday Masses

Mon to Fri 6.30am, 12.30pm Public Hol 8.00am

Pastoral Team

Dean & Administrator:

Very Rev Fr Robert Riedling

Assistant Priests:

Rev Chris del Rosario, Rev Chadi Ibrahim SDB

Parish Secretary:

Pat Preca

Sacramental Coordinator:

Meg Gale