



MATTHEW GIBNEY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

30 Munday Road, High Wycombe WA 6057 Phone: 6216 8400
Email: admin@gibney.wa.edu.au Website: www.gibney.wa.edu.au

NEWSLETTER No. 9
3rd April 2020

Dear Parents, Students and Staff

School is very quiet indeed! It has a surreal feeling about it with only a small number of students attending. However, the work of the school has continued. Teaching staff have been busy preparing lessons for next term and interacting with their students, via online platforms and phone calls. We are unsure how Term Two will proceed and will inform parents as soon as we have some clarity about this.

For now, however, we know that this is the final week of Term One. The students have a pupil free week next week prior to the commencement of the holidays. In effect they have three weeks of holidays. Staff will be working next week to continue preparations in the event of continued online learning.

It has been encouraging to see our parents engaging with their children in the remote learning programs. The photos and feedback received on the various platforms has shown your dedication in ensuring the learning process continues. It is absolutely essential that all students, from Kindy to Year Six engage with their learning on a daily basis during our period of remote learning.

It is important that the children do not spend countless hours in front of screens. An online learning environment must be balanced with offline and outdoor experiences for our primary aged students. Teachers will provide learning experiences that encourages a healthy balance for all students. Please make sure the children are getting play times and plenty of breaks during the day. Be kind to yourselves. Supervising children's school work and learning while continuing to care for younger children or managing your own work from home commitments, is a challenge for anyone. Be realistic with expectations and talk to your classroom teachers for guidance and support, if required. We will check in personally with all families regularly during the period of remote learning.

A remote learning plan will be sent home early next week to offer clarity to parents about platforms, communication methods and work requirements for each year level. Please print it out and use it as a useful reference to help manage the remote learning in the home. Included in the plan will be information about the collection of home learning packs for students in preparation for Term Two.

Student Medications

Parents may require medications kept at school, including Ventolin and asthma puffers, during the holiday period. Please ring the administration office to let Mrs Kays know if you are coming in to collect medications.

School Fees Relief

The Matthew Gibney Catholic Primary School Board understands that meeting school fees commitments will be challenging for some families during this time of uncertainty. We are especially mindful of the pressure on families who may have lost jobs or had their hours or businesses impacted due to the coronavirus. No family will ever be turned away from our school due to payment of fees. Please ring the office to speak to Mrs Hussey at any time should you require assistance. Assistance is available and all conversations regarding school fees remain confidential between the family and the school Principal.

New Family Welcome

Last week we welcomed two new students to our school. We welcomed Scarlet to the Pre-Primary class and her cousin, Velocity, into Year Two. Both girls have joined us from Queensland and we wish the girls and their parents a very happy association with our school. The girls have settled in very well and quickly made new friends during their first few days.



Palm Sunday

This Sunday we celebrate Palm Sunday, when Jesus arrived triumphantly into Jerusalem just a few days before his arrest and death on the cross. Although we are not able to attend Holy Week celebrations this year, or have the opportunity to have Holy Week and Easter services at school as we normally would, we can still take the time to reflect on the events of Holy Week in preparation for the great feast of Easter. The celebrations of Easter remind us of the hope that we receive in the Resurrection of Jesus. In this time of great turmoil across the world we can, as Christians, draw strength from the Easter message of the Risen Lord. We can draw on the teachings of Jesus as we navigate the challenges facing our families and communities at this time. The Risen Lord has given **us hope in the power of humanity to care for, love and show compassion to each other during the challenges that we are facing.**

Dear God,

Thank you for sending your Son and paving the way for our lives to be set free through Jesus' death on the cross. Thank you for what this day stands for - the beginning of Holy Week, the start of the journey towards the power of the cross, the victory of the Resurrection, and the rich truth that Jesus truly is our King of Kings.

Best wishes to you all for the week ahead. Keep well. Take care of each other. Remember, we are open until the end of next week and available for any support our families may require.

Warm regards
Therese