



AT THE END OF EACH DAY  
ALL YOU NEED IS HOPE AND STRENGTH.  
HOPE THAT IT WILL GET BETTER,  
AND STRENGTH TO HOLD ON TO UNTIL IT GETS BETTER.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Week 8! Let's see what this week holds for us in this upside-down world of ours.

As previously mentioned I'd like to keep you up to date with all new developments and changes within our school.

In line with the latest advice from Commonwealth and WA governments, *Mary's Mount Primary School* is planning to remain open at least until the end of term to provide the best possible education to your children. In line with Prime Minister's and the WA Minister for Education's advice, parents may choose to keep their children at home during this unprecedented time.

State and territory Premiers and Chief Ministers have committed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee advice that says that it is safe to keep schools open.

Yesterday morning I visited our classes to reassure our students and to commend them on their hygiene practices. It was a good opportunity to go over some of our good practices with the students and reinforce these. The students have been tremendous and our biggest focus is to keep them calm, focused on school work and enjoy their schooling.

A couple of points I would like to bring to your attention:

1. **ABSENTEES**

Please remember to report your child's absentee to the school office. If you are keeping your children home for an extended time because of COVID-19, you need to email me direct, copying the class teacher. It is important we maintain accurate records of attendance during this time.

2. **WHAT HAPPENS IF THE GOVERNMENT ORDERS SCHOOLS TO CLOSE?**

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been working extremely hard in preparing and designing a plan for on-line learning. This is a plan that we would act on if a closure was imposed on us.



We have given teachers a maximum of 48 hours to have their class work uploaded and ready to send to families, from the time of the official school closure (ie if schools are told to close from Wednesday, teachers will have 48 hours from this time to prepare and provide work).

Our plan encompasses both digital learning, for those who have access to devices, and wifi at home and also hard copy packages that can, on request, be picked up from school.

Also keep in mind that we have emphasised to our teachers the importance of the *quality* of the work they will be presenting to the children over the *quantity* of work.

I would like to thank our leadership team, admin staff and teachers for working together on this plan and for producing a great document for our students and their families.

***(Please see attached plan: School Closure and Delivery of Curriculum)***

### 3. LIMITED PARENT TIME ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

I would highly encourage parents to please *limit* access and their time on the school grounds when dropping their child/ren to school and picking up after school. It would be appreciated if parents could drop their child off and move off the school grounds promptly. After school, we would also like you to pick your child up and swiftly move off the school grounds.

Doing this hopefully encourages social distancing, and will be promoting limited contact with other students on school grounds. It also stops younger siblings from entering and playing in the classroom too.

Obviously this goes against us building community, HOWEVER, I am sure you can all appreciate, this is a time for us to be far more vigilant, and a time for us to look after our community and ourselves.

I thank you for your compliance, support, and understanding on this.

### 4. HYGIENE BUCKETS and HYGIENE PRACTICES

Last week, Mrs Taylor managed to package up a bucket, for each class and room in the school, of cleaning products, facial mask, splash gown and gloves. I would like to acknowledge Kalamunda Mitre 10 who have assisted us in sourcing some of these items. This will help staff disinfect and cleaning areas after use during the day. At the end of each day, our cleaners are doing a thorough clean of all classes and school areas.

All doors are being left open at recess and lunch. This is so children do not have to touch handles. At recess and lunch, one of the leadership team is going through the school and disinfecting all door handles.

### 5. OUR TOP THREE ACTIONS

The top three actions that we have put into place for each class to try to stop the spread of this virus include:

- Washing / sanitising hands – morning, coming into class after recess and lunch.



- Disinfecting touched surfaces – throughout the day, and our cleaners have upgraded their cleaning products to clean all surfaces every night including door handles, sinks and desks.
- All class teachers are trying as best as they can, to work on social distancing in the classrooms. This includes students' desks being moved apart and junior classes not sitting on the mat. It is a very hard one for teachers to police, however, our staff are trying their best under the circumstances.

I ask that you have conversations with your child about the importance of these measures. If your child is feeling unwell in any way, please keep them at home.

6. **OTHER NOTES:**

Classes will cease the use of parent help. Although this is so hard to do, we need to adhere to the government ruling on this point of social distancing. It also prevents parents from touching surfaces as well as stops contact with other students and staff at school.

Our Kindy and Pre-Primary students now have staggered play times. This will reduce exposure to another set of children and help with social distancing.

In acknowledging the far-reaching impact of COVID-19 for families in our school community, I also assure parents that we remain determined that no family seeking a Catholic education for their child be denied the opportunity due to financial difficulty.

As you can see, we have been working very hard to incorporate various standards to improve the hygiene and safety of our students and staff. These and other smaller actions have been put into place to protect our school community as a whole.

Our priority is to work at keeping our children and whole community safe and calm while at the same time being vigilant and not to become too complacent.

We will get through this with calmness, levelheadedness and by working and cooperating together. Please keep an eye out for each other and especially our elderly and to quote St Mary Mackillop, *"Never see a need without doing something about it"*.

Thank you for your support at this time, and as a Catholic community I encourage all of you to pray for those coordinating our response in Australia, and for all of those in Australia and abroad affected by COVID-19.

As always, I ask that you contact me directly if you have any concerns that may relate to your child.

Yours Sincerely

**Sandro Coniglio**

24 March 2020